


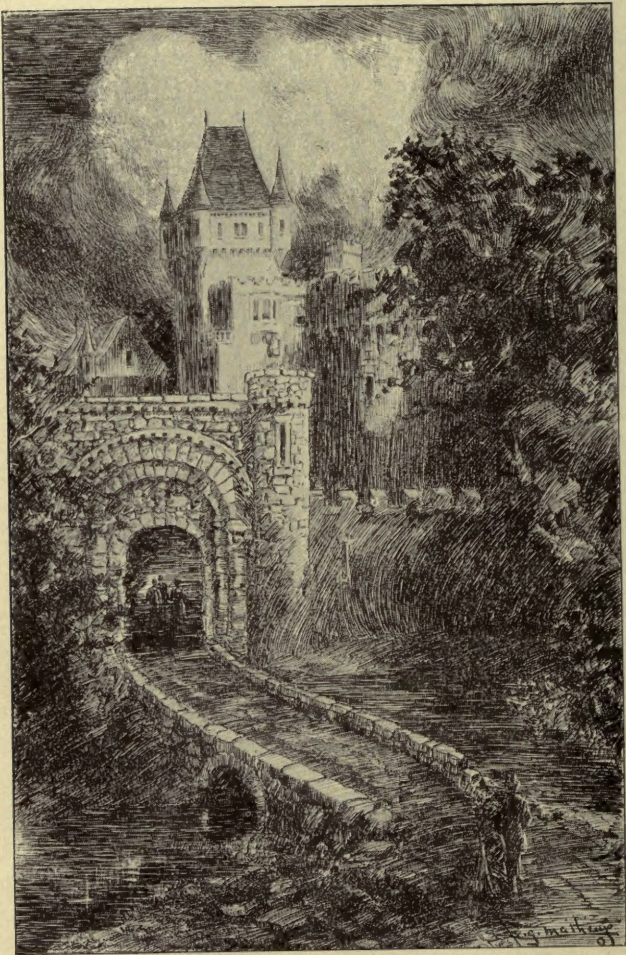


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Altenburg Castle, p. 187.

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A BIT OF ATLANTIS

BY

DOUGLAS ERSKINE.

Illustrated

BY

H. JULIEN AND R. G. MATHEWS.

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MONTREAL :

A. T. CHAPMAN,

1900.

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TO

MY HONORED FRIEND

SIR J. WILLIAM DAWSON,

C.M.G., LL.D., F.R.S., F.G.S., ETC.

IN GRATEFUL RECOGNITION OF WISE COUNSEL AND KINDLY
ENCOURAGEMENT IN MY STUDENT DAYS,

WITH MUCH RESPECT AND ESTEEM, THIS VOLUME IS

Dedicated.

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PREFACE,

The object of this work is suggestive, rather than intended to uphold a theory. While the subject may not be of equal interest to all, from a purely historical or scientific point of view, an element of romance may tend to popularize it, and induce a wider study.

The author desires to acknowledge his indebtedness to those who are mentioned in the Introduction, especially to the Hon. Ignatius Donnelly, from whose work he received many valuable suggestions, and also Messrs. Harper Bros., of New York, by whose kind permission the profile and maps of "Atlantis" are reproduced. He is also greatly indebted to "The Cruise of the Challenger," Prescott's Histories of Mexico and Peru, and The Origin of the Aryans, by Doctor Isaac Taylor, for much useful data.

While this work was going through the press, the death occurred of Sir William Dawson, to whom it is dedicated. A great and good man, he has passed away full of years and honors, leaving the record of a noble life's work well done.

D. E.

MONTREAL, 1899.

PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION.

“Seldom has punishment, though lame of foot, failed to overtake the wicked.” This was an old truth even when Horace so well expressed it, and from the time of Noah’s Flood down to the latest offender in the grip of justice, object lessons, stern and terrible, have never been wanting to emphasize it. Nevertheless, in all ages, men and nations have shown a strange readiness to forget it, until they themselves have been overtaken by the “lame” but surefooted avenger.

In the many expressions of appreciation, which have reached the author, concerning this work, the dominating thought has been the timeliness of the lesson which may be learned from the fate of Atlantis. The world may not be growing worse in the aggregate, but prosperity and increase of wealth have so often resulted in national or individual disaster, that in such a time, of which the signs are presently not wanting, a danger signal can never be amiss.

The favour with which “A Bit of Atlantis” has been received, and the opinion, expressed in many forms, that it does emphasize this lesson, encourages the belief that, although the signal may be but a rushlight, it may still serve to mark the rocks, on which many goodly vessels have made shipwrecks.

D. E.

Montreal, May 1st, 1900.

INTRODUCTION.



THE “fabled Atlantis” is a familiar expression, and perhaps one which correctly states the opinion held by the great majority of those who have any opinion on the subject; but ever since the days of Solon there have been those who have stoutly maintained that, far away in the dim past, a mighty Island Empire existed, where now the waters of the Atlantic roll “a thousand fathoms deep”; which Empire pushed out its civilization and influence, on the one hand into Europe, and across Asia, to the shores of the Pacific; and on the other across the Continent of America, until its western borders were bounded by the other side of the same Ocean.

Plato, in his Dialogues, (Timaeus), has given a most circumstantial account of the Empire of Atlantis up to a certain point; where, however, his story abruptly

terminates. After stating that his ancestor, Solon, visited Sais at the head of the Nile Delta, where he learned from the Egyptian priests many things which had been preserved in their history about what had taken place in ancient times, and particularly how the men of his own city, Athens, had driven back a mighty western nation, which had conquered all others but the Greeks ; he proceeds with the tale which had come down to him from Solon as follows:—

“Many great and wonderful deeds are recorded of your State in our histories ; but one of them exceeds all the rest in greatness and valor ; for these histories tell of a mighty power which was aggressing wantonly against the whole of Europe and Asia, and to which your city put an end. This power came forth out of the Atlantic Ocean, for in those days the Atlantic was navigable ; and there was an Island situated in front of the straits, which you call the Columns of Heracles ; the island was larger than Libya and Asia put together, and was

the way to other islands, and from the islands you might pass through the whole of the opposite continent which surrounded the true ocean; for this sea which is within the Straits of Heracles is only a harbor, having a narrow entrance, but that other is a real sea, and the surrounding land may be most truly called a continent. Now, in the island of Atlantis there was a great and wonderful empire, which had rule over the whole island and several others, as well as over parts of the continent; and, besides these, they subjected the parts of Libya within the Columns of Heracles as far as Egypt, and of Europe as far as Tyrrhenia. The vast power thus gathered into one endeavored to subdue at one blow our country and yours, and the whole of the land which was within the straits, and then, Solon, your country shone forth, in the excellence of her virtue and strength, among all mankind; for she was the first in courage and military skill, and was the leader of the Hellenes. And when the rest fell off

from her, being compelled to stand alone, after having undergone the very extremity of danger, she defeated and triumphed over the invaders, and preserved from slavery those who were not yet subjected, and freely liberated all the others who dwelt within the limits of Heracles. But afterwards there occurred violent earthquakes and floods, and in a single day and night of rain all your warlike men in a body sunk into the earth, and the Island of Atlantis in like manner disappeared, and was sunk beneath the sea. And that is the reason why the sea in those parts is impassable and impenetrable, because there is such a quantity of shallow mud in the way; and this was caused by the subsidence of the island.....

“But, in addition to the gods whom you have mentioned, I would specially invoke Mnemosyne; for all the important part of what I have to tell is dependent on her favor, and if I can recollect and recite enough of what was said by the priests and brought hither by Solon, I

doubt not that I shall satisfy the requirements of this theatre. To that task, then, I will at once address myself.

“Let me begin by observing, first of all, that nine thousand was the sum of years which had elapsed since the war which was said to have taken place between all those who dwelt outside the Pillars of Heracles and those who dwelt within them; this war I am now to describe. Of the combatants on the one side, the City of Athens was reported to have been the ruler, and to have directed the contest; the combatants on the other side were led by the Kings of the Islands of Atlantis, which, as I was saying, once had an extent greater than that of Libya and Asia; and, when afterward sunk by an earthquake, became an impassable barrier of mud to voyagers sailing from hence to the ocean. The progress of the history will unfold the various tribes of barbarians and Hellenes which then existed, as they successively appear on the scene; but I must begin by describing, first of all, the

Athenians as they were in that day and their enemies who fought with them, and I shall have to tell of the power and form of government of both of them. Let us give the precedence to Athens

.....

“Many great deluges have taken place during the nine thousand years, for that is the number of years which have elapsed since the time of which I am speaking, and in all the ages and changes of things there has never been any settlement of the earth flowing down from the mountains as in other places which is worth speaking of; it has always been carried round in a circle, and disappeared in the depths below. The consequence is that, in comparison of what then was, there are remaining in small islets only the bones of the wasted body, as they may be called, all the richer and softer parts of the soil having fallen away, and the mere skeleton of the country being left.....

“And next, if I have not forgotten

what I heard when I was a child, I will impart to you the character and origin of their adversaries; for friends should not keep their stories to themselves, but have them in common. Yet, before proceeding further in the narrative, I ought to warn you that you must not be surprised if you should hear Hellenic names given to foreigners. I will tell you the reason of this; Solon, who was intending to use the tale for his poem, made an investigation into the meaning of the names, and found that the early Egyptians in writing them down had translated them into their own language, and he recovered the meaning of the several names and retranslated them, and copied them out again in our language. My great-grandfather, Dropidas, had the original writing, which is still in my possession, and was carefully studied by me when I was a child. Therefore, if you hear names such as are used in this country, you must not be surprised, for I have told you the reason of them.

“The tale which was of great length

began as follows :—I have before remarked, in speaking of the allotments of the gods, that they distributed the whole earth into portions differing in extent, and made themselves temples and sacrifices. And Poseidon, receiving for his lot the island of Atlantis, begat children by a mortal woman, and settled them in a part of the island which I will proceed to describe. On the side toward the sea, and in the centre of the whole island, there was a plain which is said to have been the fairest of all plains, and very fertile. Near the plain again, and also in the centre of the island, at a distance of about fifty stadia, there was a mountain not very high on any side. In this mountain there dwelt one of the earth-born primeval men of that country, whose name was Evenor, and he had a wife named Leucippe, and they had an only daughter who was named Cleito. The maiden was growing up to womanhood when her father and mother died : Poseidon fell in love with her, and had intercourse with her ; and, breaking the

ground, enclosed the hill in which she dwelt all round, making alternate zones of sea and land larger and smaller, encircling one another ; there were two of land and three of water, which he turned as with a lathe out of the centre of the island, equidistant every way so that no man could get to the island, for ships and voyages were not yet heard of. He himself, as he was a god, found no difficulty in making special arrangements for the centre island, bringing two streams of water under the earth, which he caused to ascend as springs, one of warm water and the other of cold, and making every variety of food to spring up abundantly in the earth. He also begat and brought up five pairs of male children, dividing the island of Atlantis into ten portions ; he gave to the first-born of the eldest pair his mother's dwelling and the surrounding allotment, which was the largest and best, and made him king over the rest ; the others he made princes, and gave them rule over many men and a large territory.

And he named them all ; the eldest, who was king, he named Atlas, and from him the whole island and the ocean received the name of Atlantic. To his twin brother, who was born after him, and obtained as his lot the extremity of the island toward the Pillars of Heracles as far as the country which is still called the region of Gades in that part of the world, he gave the name which in the Hellenic language is Eumelus, in the language of the country which is named after him, Gadeirus. Of the second pair of twins he called one Ampheres and the other Evaemon. To the third pair of twins he gave the name Mneseus to the elder and Autochthon to the one who followed him. Of the fourth pair of twins he called the elder Alasippis and the younger Mestor. And of the fifth pair he gave to the elder the name of Azaes and to the younger Diaprepes. All these and their descendants were the inhabitants and rulers of divers islands in the open sea ; and also, as has been already said, they held sway in the other

direction over the country within the Pillars as far as Egypt and Tyrrhenia. Now Atlas had a numerous and honorable family, and his eldest branch always retained the kingdom which the eldest son handed on to his eldest for many generations; and they had such an amount of wealth as was never before possessed by kings and potentates, and is not likely ever to be again, and they were furnished with everything which they could have, both in city and country. For, because of the greatness of their empire, many things were brought to them from foreign countries, and the island itself provided much of what was required by them for the uses of life. In the first place, they dug out of the earth whatever was to be found there, mineral as well as metal, and that which is now only a name, and was then something more than a name—*orichalcum*—was dug out of the earth in many parts of the island, and, with the exception of gold, was esteemed the most precious of metals among the men of those days. There

was an abundance of wood for carpenters' work, and sufficient maintenance for tame and wild animals. Moreover, there were a great number of elephants in the island, and there was provision for animals of every kind, both for those which live in lakes and marshes and rivers, and also for those which live in mountains and on plains, and therefore for the animal which is the largest and most voracious of them. Also, whatever fragrant things there are in the earth, whether roots or herbage or woods or distilling drops of flowers or fruits, grew and thrived in that land; and, again, the cultivated fruit of the earth, both the dry, edible fruit and other species of food, which we call by the general name of legumes, and the fruits having a hard rind, affording drinks and meats and ointments, and good store of chestnuts and the like which may be used to play with, and are fruits which spoil with keeping—and the pleasant kinds of dessert which console us after dinner, when we are full and tired of

eating—all these that sacred island lying beneath the sun brought forth fair and wondrous in infinite abundance. All these things they received from the earth, and they employed themselves in constructing their temples and palaces and harbors and docks, and they arranged the whole country in the following manner: First of all they bridged over the zones of sea which surrounded the ancient metropolis and made a passage into and out of the royal palace, and then they began to build the palace in the habitation of the gods and of their ancestors. This they continued to ornament in successive generations, every king surpassing the one who came before him to the utmost of his power, until they made the building a marvel to behold for size and for beauty. And, beginning from the sea, they dug a canal three hundred feet in width and one hundred feet in depth and fifty stadia in length, which they carried through to the outermost zone, making a passage from the sea up to this, which became a harbor, and leaving an

opening sufficient to enable the largest vessels to find ingress. Moreover, they divided the zones of land which parted the zones of sea, constructing bridges of such a width as would leave a passage for a single trireme to pass out of one into another, and roofed them over, and there was a way underneath for the ships, for the banks of the zones were raised considerably above the water. Now, the largest of the zones into which a passage was cut from the sea was three stadia in breadth, and the zone of land which came next of equal breadth; but the next two, as well the zone of water as of land, were two stadia, and the one which surrounded the central island was a stadium only in width. The island in which the palace was situated had a diameter of five stadia. This, and the zones and the bridge, which was the sixth part of a stadium in width, they surrounded by a stone wall, on either side placing towers, and gates on the bridges where the sea passed in. The stone which was used in the work they quarried from underneath

the centre island and from underneath the zones, on the outer as well as the inner side. One kind of stone was white, another black and a third red; and, as they quarried, they at the same time hollowed out docks double within, having roofs formed out of the native rock. Some of their buildings were simple, but in others they put together different stones, which they intermingled for the sake of ornament, to be a natural source of delight. The entire circuit of the wall which went round the outermost one they covered with a coating of brass, and the circuit of the next wall they coated with tin, and the third, which encompassed the citadel, flashed with the red light of orichalcum. The palaces in the interior of the citadel were constructed in this wise: In the centre was a holy temple dedicated to Cleito and Poseidon, which remained inaccessible, and was surrounded by an enclosure of gold; this was the spot in which they originally begat the race of the ten princes, and thither they annually

brought the fruits of the earth in their season from all the ten portions, and performed sacrifices to each of them. Here, too, was Poseidon's own temple, of a stadium in length and half a stadium in width, and of a proportionate height, having a sort of barbaric splendor. All the outside of the temple, with the exception of the pinnacles, they covered with silver, and the pinnacles with gold. In the interior of the temple the roof was of ivory, adorned everywhere with gold and silver and orichalcum. All the other parts of the walls and pillars and floor they lined with orichalcum. In the temple they placed statues of gold; there was the god himself standing in a chariot—the charioteer of six winged horses—and of such a size that he touched the roof of the building with his head; around him there were a hundred Nereids riding on dolphins, for such was thought to be the number of them in that day. There were also in the interior of the building other images which had been dedicated by private individuals.

And around the temple on the outside were placed statues of gold of all the ten kings and of their wives ; and there were many other great offerings, both of kings and of private individuals, coming both from the city itself and the foreign cities over which they held sway. There was an altar, too, which in size and workmanship corresponded to the rest of the work, and there were palaces in like manner which answered to the greatness of the kingdom and the glory of the temple.

“ In the next place, they used fountains both of cold and hot springs ; these were very abundant, and both kinds wonderfully adapted to use by reason of the sweetness and excellence of their waters. They constructed buildings about them, and planted suitable trees ; also cisterns, some open to the heaven, others which they roofed over, to be used in winter as warm baths ; there were the king’s baths, and the baths of private persons, which were kept apart ; also separate baths for women, and others again for horses and cattle, and to them

they gave as much adornment as was suitable for them. The water which ran off they carried, some to the grove of Poseidon, where were growing all manner of trees of wonderful height and beauty, owing to the excellence of the soil; the remainder was conveyed by aqueducts which passed over the bridges to the outer circles; and there were many temples built and dedicated to many gods; also gardens and places of exercise, some for men, and some set apart for horses, in both of the two islands formed by the zones; and in the centre of the larger of the two there was a race-course of a stadium in width, and in length allowed to extend all round the island for horses to race in. Also there were guard-houses at intervals for the body-guard, the more trusted of whom had their duties appointed to them in the lesser zone, which was nearer the Acropolis; while the most trusted of all had houses given them within the citadel, and about the persons of the kings. The docks were full of triremes and naval

stores, and all things were quite ready for use. Enough of the plan of the royal palace. Crossing the outer harbors, which were three in number, you would come to a wall which began at the sea and went all round; this was everywhere distant fifty stadia from the largest zone and harbor, and enclosed the whole, meeting at the mouth of the channel toward the sea. The entire area was densely crowded with habitations; and the canal and the largest of the harbors were full of vessels and merchants coming from all parts, who, from their numbers, kept up a multitudinous sound of human voices and din of all sorts night and day. I have repeated his descriptions of the City and the parts about the ancient palace nearly as he gave them, and now I must endeavor to describe the nature and arrangement of the rest of the country. The whole country was described as being very lofty and precipitous on the side of the sea, but the country immediately about and surrounding the City was a level plain, itself surrounded by mountains which descended

towards the sea ; it was smooth and even, but of an oblong shape, extending in one direction three thousand stadia, and going up the country from the sea through the centre of the island two thousand stadia ; the whole region of the island lies towards the south and is sheltered from the north. The surrounding mountains he celebrated for their number and size and beauty, in which they exceeded all that are now to be seen anywhere ; having in them also many wealthy inhabited villages, and rivers and lakes, and meadows supplying food enough for every animal, wild or tame, and wood of various sorts, abundant for every kind of work. I will now describe the plain which had been cultivated during many ages by many generations of kings. It was rectangular, and for the most part straight and oblong ; and what it wanted of the straight line followed the line of the circular ditch. The depth and width and length of this ditch were incredible, and gave the impression that such a work, in addition to so many other works, could hardly have

been wrought by the hand of man. But I must say what I have heard. It was excavated to the depth of a hundred feet, and its breadth was a stadium everywhere; it was carried round the whole of the plain, and was ten thousand stadia in length. It received the streams which came down from the mountains, and winding round the plain, and touching the City at various points, was there let off into the sea. From above likewise, straight canals of a hundred feet in width were cut in the plain, and again let off into the ditch towards the sea; these canals were at intervals of a hundred stadia, and by them they brought down the wood from the mountains to the City, and conveyed the fruits of the earth in ships, cutting transverse passages from one canal into another, and to the City. Twice in the year they gathered the fruits of the earth—in winter having the benefit of the rains, and in summer introducing the water of the canals. As to the population, each of the lots in the plain had an appointed chief of men who were fit for

military service, and the size of the lot was to be a square of ten stadia each way, and the total number of all the lots was sixty thousand.

“And of the inhabitants of the mountains and of the rest of the country there was also a vast multitude having leaders, to whom they were assigned according to their dwellings and villages. The leader was required to furnish for the war the sixth portion of a war chariot, so as to make up a total of ten thousand chariots; also two horses and riders upon them, and a light chariot without a seat, accompanied by a fighting man on foot, carrying a small shield, and having a charioteer mounted to guide the horses; also he was bound to furnish two heavy-armed men, two archers, two slingers, three stone-shooters, and three javelin men, who were skirmishers, and four sailors to make up a complement of twelve hundred ships. Such was the order of war in the royal city; that of the other nine governments was different in each of them, and would be wearisome to narrate. As to offices and honors, the

following was the arrangement from the first: each of the ten kings, in his own division and in his own City, had the absolute control of the citizens, and in many cases of the laws, punishing and slaying whomsoever he would.

“ Now, the relations of their governments to one another were regulated by the injunctions of Poseidon as the law had handed them down. These were inscribed by the first men on a column of orichalcum, which was situated in the middle of the island, at the temple of Poseidon, whither the people were gathered together every fifth and sixth years alternately, thus giving equal honor to the odd and to the even number. And when they were gathered together they consulted about public affairs, and inquired if any one had transgressed in anything, and passed judgment on him accordingly—and before they passed judgment they gave their pledges to one another in this wise: There were bulls who had the range of the temple of Poseidon; and the ten who were left alone in the temple, after they

had offered prayers to the gods that they might take the sacrifices which were acceptable to them, hunted the bulls without weapons, but with staves and nooses; and the bull which they caught they led up to the column; the victim was then struck on the head by them, and slain over the sacred inscription. Now, on the column, besides the law, there was inscribed an oath invoking mighty curses on the disobedient. When, therefore, after offering sacrifice according to their customs, they had burnt the limbs of the bull, they mingled a cup and cast in a clot of blood for each of them; the rest of the victim they took to the fire, after having made a purification of the column all round. Then they drew from the cup in golden vessels, and, pouring a libation on the fire, they swore that they would judge according to the laws on the column, and would punish any one who had previously transgressed; and that for the future they would not, if they could help, transgress any of the inscriptions, and would not command or obey any ruler who commanded

them to act otherwise than according to the laws of their father Poseidon. This was the prayer which each of them offered up for himself and for his family, at the same time drinking and dedicating the vessel in the temple of the god; and after spending some necessary time at supper, when darkness came on and the fire about the sacrifice was cool, all of them put on most beautiful azure robes, and, sitting on the ground at night near the embers of the sacrifices on which they had sworn, and extinguishing all the fire about the temple, they received and gave judgment, if any of them had any accusation to bring against any one; and when they had given judgment at daybreak they wrote down their sentences on a golden tablet, and deposited them as memorials with their robes. There were many special laws which the several kings had inscribed about the temples, but the most important was the following: That they were not to take up arms against one another, and they were all to come to the rescue if any one in the City attempted to overthrow

the royal house. Like their ancestors, they were to deliberate in common about war and other matters, giving the supremacy to the family of Atlas; and the king was not to have the power of life and death over any of his kinsmen unless he had the assent of the majority of the ten kings.

“Such was the vast power which the god settled in the lost island of Atlantis, and this he afterward directed against our land on the following pretext, as traditions tell : For many generations, as long as the divine nature lasted in them, they were obedient to the laws and well affectioned towards the gods, who were their kinsmen, for they possessed true and in every way great spirits, practising gentleness and wisdom in the various chances of life and in their intercourse with one another. They despised everything but virtue, not caring for their present state of life, and thinking lightly on the possession of gold and other property, which seemed only a burden to them ; neither were they intoxicated by luxury, nor did wealth deprive them of

their self-control, but they were sober, and saw clearly that all these goods are increased by virtuous friendship with one another, and that by excessive zeal for them, and honor of them, the good of them is lost, and friendship perishes with them.

“ By such reflections, and by the continuance in them of a divine nature, all that which we have described waxed and increased in them ; but when this divine portion began to fade away in them, and became diluted too often, and with too much of the mortal admixture, and the human nature got the upper hand, then, they being unable to bear their fortune, became unseemly, and to him who had an eye to see they began to appear base, and had lost the fairest of their precious gifts ; but to those who had no eye to see the true happiness, they still appeared glorious and blessed at the very time when they were filled with unrighteous avarice and power. Zeus, the god of gods, who rules with law, and is able to see into such things, perceiving that an honorable race

was in a most wretched state, and wanting to inflict punishment on them that they might be chastened and improved, collected all the gods into his most holy habitation, which, being placed in the centre of the world, sees all things that partake of generation. And, when he had called them all together, he spake as follows:—" Here Plato's history abruptly ends.

While on a voyage in search of rest and health, as the good steamer "Kaiser Wilhelm II." sailed over the waters, beneath which the "fabled Atlantis" is said to have been engulfed, and particularly when sailing past the Azores, almost within a stone's throw of the lofty cliffs of Fayal, the varied colors of the rocks recalled Plato's description, and suggested the thought that there might be some foundation for the story.

Be that as it may, the subject has a fascination which is all its own, and there are questions connected with it which almost seem to require the existence of an Atlantis to explain them.

That there have been tremendous convulsions of nature, by which many parts of the earth's surface which were once dry land are now beneath the ocean, is admitted, and no less an authority than Sir Charles Lyell has made the statement that "it is not too much to say that every spot which is now dry land has been sea at some former period, and every part of space now covered by the deepest oceans has been land."

In an able and interesting article on "The West Indian Bridge," by J. W. Spencer, *Popular Science Monthly*, Vol. LIII, p. 10, the statement is made, based on the depth of the submerged channels or drowned valleys of rivers now flowing into the Atlantic, which can be traced far out beyond the present coast line, that in the early Pleistocene period, or the beginning of the great Ice Age, "the West Indian Bridge reached a height of from two to more than two and a half miles" above the present level of the land.

The deep sea soundings made by H.M.S. "Challenger" in 1872 and fol-



DOLPHIN'S RIDGE:

lowing years and by the United States ship "Dolphin" showed a great elevation in mid-Atlantic, in the neighborhood at least of the supposed site of Atlantis, rising some nine thousand feet above the bottom of the ocean, to which the name of the "Dolphin's Ridge" was given, the greater part of which would be over five thousand feet above sea level if raised to an elevation corresponding to the highest point reached by the West Indian Bridge; and speaking of which and its connecting ridges Mr. J. Starkie Gardner is of opinion that a great extension of land existed in the Eocene period, practically connecting the Scilly and Channel Islands, Ireland and Brittany. *Popular Science Review*, July, 1878.

Besides this Ridge, there are other elevations in the Atlantic which may have been outlying islands of the great Island Empire. Among others the Prince of Monaco is said, while on an exploring expedition in his yacht, to have discovered a huge mountain in the Atlantic a thousand miles due west from Gibraltar, the top of

which is only forty-two fathoms below the surface of the water.

It has also been stated and argued that the "Dolphin's Ridge" must at one time have been dry land, inasmuch as its surface presents the inequalities, the mountains and valleys, which could only have been produced by the agency of water acting above the water level.

Mr. Ignatius Donnelly has written an exceedingly interesting book called "Atlantis, the Antediluvian World," in which, if his conclusions do not always appear to flow very clearly from his premises, he has collected an immense number of facts which seem to make the existence of an "Atlantean Empire" more than a probability, and the effect of which is even startling in the similarities shewn to exist between the Old and New Worlds, especially between the Old and the civilizations which existed in Mexico and Peru, which similarity is such that it could scarcely have been accidental or a mere coincidence.

Frenzel, a German writer, is of opinion that both the Aztecs and the Peruvians

were of Celtic origin: "Aber woher kamen diese Kelten.....denn dass es Kelten gewesen sind, kann nicht mehr zweifelhaft sein,"* and he then proceeds to answer the question by shewing they were probably Irish.

On the other hand, it has been argued on philological and other grounds by Dr. Vincente Lopez, that the dominant race in Peru was an off-shoot of the great Indo-European Aryan family. Lopez, *Les Races aryennes du Pérou*.

The commonly accepted opinion concerning the Aryans until late years at least, was, that their original home to use the words of Professor Max Müller, was to be found "somewhere in Asia"; and that they had migrated westward into Europe. During the last twenty years the opposite theory has been adopted by a number of scholars, including Dr. Schrader, Professor Sayce and several others, who are of opinion that the Aryans were a western people which at some early period occupied central Europe, and from there passed

*But whence came these Celts? For that Celts were there cannot be doubted.

into Asia. If the theory of Dr. Lopez is correct, that the Peruvians are of Aryan origin, it suggests the question whether the original home of the Aryans may not have been in Atlantis, if the great Island ever existed, rather than the swamps of central Europe, and from thence spread into Europe on the one hand and into America on the other.

In his *History of the Conquest of Peru*, Prescott in the introduction to the book gives a view of the civilization of the Incas, which he has also given of Mexican civilization, in his *Conquest of Mexico by the Spaniards*, and in both cases it is impossible not to be struck by the remarkable similarity which is there shown to have existed between the institutions, laws and customs of these countries and those of the Old World.

It will thus be seen that the field which this subject opens up is not only of immense extent, but most interesting in its nature. It extends from the mouth of the Ganges to the Pacific Coast of America. It takes in the Aryan controversy, and the

question of who were the mound-builders of the Mississippi Valley, and even suggests the thought, that those ancient Atlanteans may have sailed up the Mississippi River, and by this means reached Lake Superior, and there carried on those tremendous mining operations of which no one has hitherto been able to offer any satisfactory explanation, or say who were the people by whom these works were executed ; but it is a strange thought indeed which is suggested, that perhaps the bronze celts, now found in Europe, may have been fashioned in the Island of Atlantis, out of the copper of Lake Superior and the tin of Cornwall.

It is not the purpose of these pages to attempt an answer to these questions, but rather to give, in the form of a narrative of adventure, the substance of some of the opinions which have been held concerning the Empire of Atlantis. The "Last Will of Atlas, the King," is in fact a summary of these opinions and statements.

For the setting of the story various cir-

cumstances have been utilized, and the events described kept, for the most part, within limits which have been paralleled by actual occurrences.

As an example of this, it might be supposed that the description of the treasure chamber of Atlas was an exaggeration, and more than an improbability, but the description given in Prescott's *History of the Conquest of Peru*, pp. 46 and 47, of the treasure collected in the great temple at Cuzco, shows that such a storehouse of treasure would have excited no astonishment among the Incas. The temple itself was called the "Coricancha," the place of gold. The interior of the temple is described as being "literally a mine of gold." On the western wall there was a representation of the Deity in the form of a human countenance, engraved on "a massive plate of gold, of enormous dimensions, thickly powdered with emeralds and precious stones." Even the gardens of the temple contained representations of plants and flowers and animals of gold; and it is stated by Prescott, page 221, that the gold

which was carried away by the Spaniards on one occasion alone, was of the value of about fifteen and a half millions of dollars.

Reference might be made to other incidents. The repulse by a British expedition in Africa of a native attack, by discharging rockets into the bushes where the enemy had concealed themselves, suggested the line of defence against the cannibals, while the "Rock Chambers," in the "Mountain of Refuge," find their counterpart in the galleries of Gibraltar, the Caves of Ellora, or the great rock-hewn temple of Mitzla in Central America.

Perhaps the statement which may seem the most improbable is that which says the "Mountain of Refuge" was fortified, and that guns were mounted upon it, which commanded the entrance to the harbour, but even this was purposely introduced as coming within the range of opinions which have been expressed concerning the achievements of the Atlanteans. Mr. Donnelly, in the work already mentioned, page 447, suggests the idea that the invention of gunpowder may date back to

Atlantis ; and, further, that the Cyclopes, instead of being supposed gigantic human beings with a single eye in the middle of their foreheads, were in reality great war-ships, armed with some explosive material in the nature of gunpowder.

The Story of Atlantis is, comparatively speaking, an unfamiliar tale ; but, whether it be that it is fiction or fact, there is a strange fascination in the thought that the cradle of our civilization was in a great island, midway between America and Europe, and that for untold ages it has been buried hundreds of fathoms beneath the waters of the Atlantic. Stranger things have come to pass than that the story should be found to be true, or even that the "Dolphin's Ridge," situated as it is in the prolongation of the great fire belt of Southern Europe, may yet be brought up from the depths of the ocean by some mighty convulsion of nature ; but, however that may be, there are, to quote Mr. Donnelly again, "a thousand converging lines of light from a multitude of researches made by scholars in different fields of

modern thought " which bear on the question, and are well worth investigating on their own account, and if it should be that this humble attempt to fill in the spare moments of a holiday shall have the effect, in any measure, of directing attention to them, it will to that extent at least have served a useful purpose.

Str. "Kaiser Wilhelm II.,"
Off the Azores, Dec., 1895.

CHAPTER I.

THE STORM.

ON the 21st of September, 18—, a furious storm arose to the South-East of the Azores, and moved in a westerly direction across the Atlantic. Even in those tempestuous latitudes the storm was unprecedented, both in its violence and duration. When it had passed, but few of the vessels, unfortunate enough to be in its path, were still afloat, and, for the most part, those which eventually reached port did so as shattered wrecks.

During the whole of the day and night of the 21st and the next day, the storm continued to rage with unabated and even increasing violence, until the driving mist and blinding spray seemed to mingle sea and sky together, so that the light was shut out even at mid-day, and the darkness of the night was as blackness which might be felt.

About midnight, on the 22nd, on the deck of a vessel which had thus far escaped the almost universal destruction wrought by the storm, the feeble light of a ship's lantern shining through the window of a deckhouse showed, but scarcely more than in shadowy outline, the figure of a tall and powerfully built man bending over the wheel as he held the ship on her course, and kept her driving before the storm.

In the deckhouse were two persons, a girl of about twenty, kneeling at the window and gazing out into the darkness, while an old negro woman, sitting on the floor in a corner, was rocking herself to and fro in helpless terror.

There was no one else in sight, for these three persons had been alone on the ship since the afternoon of the 21st. With scarcely the possibility of escape before them, and much less so without an officer or sailor on board to navigate the ship, they had waited through a night and a day, expecting each moment the destruction which seemed inevitable. But as the

hours passed and their sturdy little vessel continued to ride the waves as buoyantly as ever, thus showing that she was still sound and seaworthy, the solitary helmsman began to indulge some faint hope that she might yet survive the storm, especially when towards midnight some lessening of its violence began to be perceptible ; but scarcely had this reached the point where the hope of escape became more than a possibility, when they were met by a new danger from which escape seemed impossible, for without any warning, a tremendous wall of glistening white rose up before them, shining out even through the blackness of the storm and the night. A roar, which drowned the howling of the wind, burst upon their ears, and the ship, seeming for an instant to stand still like a living being in terror, sprang forward as though tossed by the hand of a giant, and they were in the midst of the breakers.



"In the midst of the breakers," p. 52.

CHAPTER II.

DUVARNAY AND THE DE MONTVILLES.

ABOUT fifty miles from the City of Montreal, on the border of a quiet Canadian village, stood the old *manoir* of the Duvarnay Seigneurie, a massive structure of gray limestone, half castle and half fortress, which overlooked, from the rising ground on which it was built, a wide expanse of forest, valley and river surrounding the manor, and beyond, over miles of rich and fertile farms, held by the *censitaires* of the Seigneurie.

The Seigneur was Archibald de Montville, the fourth of the name who had held it, the first having been his great grandfather, Atalyn de Montville, who came into possession of the Seigneurie in 1764.

Atalyn de Montville was a younger son in an ancient and famous Scottish family, which still retained the prefix

common in the time of Robert Bruce ; but, although his elder brother was heir to a title and vast estates, with princely revenues, his fortune was limited to a few thousand pounds, inherited from his mother. Thus it was that when, at the age of twenty-three, he graduated from the University of St. Andrews, he found himself faced with the question of his future. He had no liking for either the Church, the Army or the Indian Service, the usual refuge in those day for younger sons, and other vocations open to them were but few.

While he was still anxiously considering the question, a friend of the family, an officer who had served under Wolfe at Quebec, returned home, and through this circumstance de Montville's attention was directed to Canada. Careful enquiry resulted in his deciding to visit the New World, and, after a favorable voyage, he arrived at Montreal on the 21st of June, 1764.

Having letters of introduction to the Governor, as well as others in Montreal,

he found himself at once very agreeably situated, and every facility afforded him for obtaining the information which he required. At the end of a month he had fully decided to remain in Canada, and further, to acquire a tract of land in some suitable locality and people it with settlers from his native country.

The next step was to decide on the site of his proposed settlement. Within a comparatively short distance of Montreal, at that time, the virgin forest extended in almost every direction, broken only here and there by some border settlement, where a Seigneury, standing as an outpost of civilization, carried the boundaries of the colony beyond the immediate neighborhood of the cities.

In order that he might obtain reliable information, as to the conditions which were necessary to success in such an undertaking, which was an altogether new and strange experience to him, de Montville, with characteristic Scotch caution, determined to visit some of these settlements, and obtain this information through personal observation.

But while he was still occupied with preparations for his expedition, an altogether unexpected circumstance occurred, through which he was at once relieved of the pioneer work, which the opening up of a new settlement would have entailed.

A few days before his intended departure from Montreal, de Montville met Rodolphe Duvarnay, one of the best of that grand old French Noblesse, which was the embodiment of all that made for courtesy, courage and honor. No one held a higher place in the Councils of New France, or had more worthily earned the place which he held, than had Duvarnay; and the Seigneury, one of the largest and richest in Canada, had been granted him not only for the purpose of extending the settlements and reclaiming the country from the wilderness, but in recognition of his services to the State as well.

Taking up the work with his usual energy and ability, the forest soon gave place to smiling fields of waving grain, and the borders of the settlement enlarged

year by year, as the industrious settlers from his native France continued to swell the list of his *censitaires*. A magnificent manor of stone gave an air of permanence to the settlement, and furnished a place of refuge for the colonists in the event of a hostile attack ; but in the respect and esteem in which the good Seigneur was held, not only by his own people, but by the Indians as well, the settlers had a defence which was infinitely stronger than the stone walls of the manor. To these children of the forest he was the " Great Father " to whom they came with all their difficulties, and never failed to receive the advice and assistance which they required. As the years passed, the settlement, directed by Duvarnay himself, for nowhere did he find such a charm as in the midst of his family and surrounded by his devoted people, continued to prosper until it was excelled by none in New France.

But evil days had come to Duvarnay. His only son, as well as his nephew, had fallen with Montcalm on the Plains of Abraham, where he himself had been

so severely wounded, that even at the time when he met de Montville he was still an invalid. Three years later there came a deadlier blow in the death of his wife, who had never recovered from the shock which the death of her son and the injury to her husband had caused her. Now, left with his daughter Adele, the only remaining member of his family, with shattered health, and only painful memories, when Canada was formally ceded to Britain, he had determined to dispose of his Seigneury and return to France, to escape from surroundings by which he was constantly reminded of his loss.

This being the position of affairs when he met de Montville, it was soon arranged that the latter should visit the Seigneury, which he did without delay. There his decision was quickly arrived at. He purchased it from Duvarnay, and when the latter sailed in September to visit his native France, it was to return again, which he did to end his days with his children, for he had left Adele in Canada, still the Lady of Duvarnay, and the wife of Atalyn de Montville.

CHAPTER III.

THE DE MONTVILLES, CONTINUED.

ARCHIBALD de Montville had two children, Atalyn and Adele, the latter when our story opens being in her twentieth year. Tall, graceful, and faultless in feature, she had all the dark, Southern beauty as well as the charm and vivacity of Adele Duvarnay, with the sterling qualities of her Scottish forefathers. From them she had inherited her good, strong common sense and capability, which was happily combined with the quick and ready sympathy of her ancestor whose name she bore. From childhood she had displayed an earnest and intense desire to be of use to others, especially to the suffering and the unfortunate, and her purpose in this respect, always carried out in an eminently practical manner, won for her the love and gratitude of all with whom she came in contact.

Atalyn, her brother, was at that time twenty-four years of age, six feet high, well built and athletic-looking ; with the fair complexion of his father's family, he looked every inch a typical Saxon who would be equal to any emergency which might arise. When at rest his strong, earnest face had a habit of thoughtfulness which almost approached reserve, and so much so that it was only when circumstances called them forth, that his rare intellectual strength and attainments became apparent. From his earliest years his character and conduct had been irreproachable, but for this he took no credit to himself, for, through a happy combination of qualities in his nature, the usual temptations and pitfalls in the path of youth possessed no attraction for him, and it was in reality a cause of constant surprise to him, that any one should find such pursuits worth a moment's thought.

But while this was the case, when he chose, none of his companions could surpass him in their schoolboy games or

athletic contests, and not a few of his feats of strength and skill remained the standard with his school-fellows, even after they had reached manhood.

It was, however, but rarely that he chose to take part in them. His ruling passion was an intense thirst for knowledge, and in the pursuit of it he found his most congenial occupation.

The manor of Duvarnay could boast of what was comparatively rare in those days, a well-selected library, part of which had been brought to it by Duvarnay himself, and which had been added to by all the de Montvilles, with the exception perhaps of Archibald, who had but little taste for literature or learning. While still a schoolboy, Atalyn had read and re-read everything in his own language to be found in Duvarnay, and as he progressed in his studies he gradually became as familiar with the French authors and the classics as he was with the English works.

But not only had he a remarkable aptitude for science and languages, he

had what is rarely combined with it, the power of making a practical application of the knowledge which he acquired. He had "the head to plan and the hands to execute." He followed investigation with experiment, and in his workshop were models and designs without number. The machinery in the Village mill was much more familiar to him in all its details than it was to the miller himself, and when a steam engine was installed in a newly built factory in the village his workshop soon boasted a working model, and even with improvements upon it.

About the same time a work on the then unfamiliar subject of electricity came into his possession, and following his study of it, he constructed a machine which differed in no way in principle from a modern dynamo.

It is not strange that unusual ability, coupled as it was with great perseverance and a determined will, should have placed Atalyn far in advance even of those much older than himself, nor that among the simple village people he

should have come to be regarded with wonder, and, after an experience with his electrical machine, with a certain degree of fear; but what was strange and unaccountable was the fact, that his worthy father from the first regarded Atalyn and his pursuits with the strongest disapproval. Archibald de Montville was a man of strict integrity, but with exceedingly narrow and utilitarian ideas. Although he could find no fault with Atalyn's conduct, nor point to a task uncompleted, he saw in his studies, and even in the steam engine and the dynamo, only a waste of time and good materials. Even when he graduated from McGill University with a record which placed him far above the highest point up to that time attained by any one at graduation, and which settled his reputation even then as a scientist, Archibald de Montville, while secretly gratified, was careful not to spoil his son by letting his satisfaction be known to him, or in any way admitting or recognizing his success.

Atalyn had thus from his earliest years a painful element in his life. He had a strong nature, but it was intensely sensitive and sympathetic, and he craved sympathy most of all from his own. His mother, it is true, regarded him with affection and honest pride, but with the cares and worries of her every-day duties, she had but little time to give to him. Thus he was forced more and more, as his attainments carried him further, to fill his life with his studies; but with it all his life was a lonely one, and he was in danger of being carried out of touch with humanity altogether.

But, fortunately, at the time when he most needed it, he was brought in contact with the magnificent master mind of the Principal of McGill University.* At that time, still a young man himself, and fully in touch with young men, he was strong, well balanced, with an almost boundless grasp of knowledge, yet withal simple, tender and sympathetic; his was

*Sir William Dawson, whose death occurred while this work was in press.

exactly the influence which Atalyn required at the most critical period of his life, and when he graduated the good Principal had in Atalyn, as, in after years, he had in many others, his reward in seeing him leave the College halls strong, noble, well furnished, and fitted to exert an influence for good wherever his lot should be cast.

But there was another bright spot in the wilderness of Atalyn's experience. If he lacked the appreciation of the other members of his family, he had in Adele an earnest and enthusiastic champion. Fully capable of appreciating his ideas and his work, she was heartily in sympathy with him through it all; and when after having completed his studies at the University, he decided to take a further course in Paris, no one more heartily rejoiced in the prospect of wider opportunities thus opened up before him, or more sincerely mourned his departure, than did his devoted sister.

CHAPTER IV.

THE DENESMORES.

[N Paris, Atalyn continued his investigations, chiefly into the then almost unknown subject of electrical science, in which he had, from the time his attention was first directed to it, taken a deep interest. As he became more familiar with it, he also became profoundly convinced that it was a subject of the greatest importance, and that it would in time prove capable of almost boundless application. The electric machine which he had evolved at Duvarney was developed and improved, until he at length succeeded in producing a really excellent and quite workable electric light, and demonstrated the fact that it could be applied to purposes of the greatest usefulness.

As has, however, been so often the case, his success was regarded in some quarters with anything but favor. There

were those who could not see anything worthy of their approval in the alleged discoveries of the young Canadian. They had settled the question, that electrical science, so called, was a myth, and that there was nothing in connection with it which was capable of being turned to practical account. The president of a learned Society even prepared and read an exhaustive paper on the subject, in the course of which he demonstrated, to the satisfaction of himself and those who were like minded, that electric illumination was impracticable, and no one with the slightest claim to the name of scientist could ever admit that it was, or would ever become a possibility; but when the applause which greeted his effort had subsided, and one of a number of young men who stoutly championed Atalyn and his work, and without his knowledge had prepared the way to cover the learned president with confusion, arose and gravely announced that the paper to which they had listened had been read by the light of an electric

lamp, the fickle audience which had so loudly applauded the man of science now indulged in uproarious laughter at his expense, in which the whole of Paris joined as the story became known, and through it de Montville became the lion of the hour.

Atalyn was not at all anxious for notoriety, but this incident resulted in his being brought into contact with many whom he would not otherwise have met. Among those who heard the story was Sir George Denesmore, an English Baronet, who was himself a scientist of no mean order, and who, through this incident, became acquainted with de Montville and his discoveries, with the importance of which he was at once most profoundly impressed.

Besides this, he found in the electric light exactly what seemed to meet a difficulty in his own experience, and, as a result of his enquiry, he arranged before leaving Paris that two of the new electric machines, with all their necessary attachments, should be constructed for him.

But it was not only as a scientist that

he felt interested in Atalyn. In the few weeks of their acquaintance in Paris, a strong feeling of respect and regard grew up for the young man, by whom it was heartily reciprocated, and when he left Paris it was agreed that when his young friend had completed his studies he should visit Sir George before returning to Canada. Accordingly, a few months later, Atalyn crossed the Channel, and in due time arrived at Eumaling Castle, where he received a hearty welcome.

Sir George had always taken a deep interest in the welfare of the masses in his native country, and had done much to ameliorate their condition. In Parliament, as the representative of the division where his estates were situated, he had succeeded in placing many laws on the Statute Book by which their condition was improved. On his own estates the tenantry were given advantages and opportunities possessed by but few in those days, with the result that they were happy and prosperous, and the revenues of the estates were incidentally very greatly increased besides.

Some three years before his visit to Paris, Sir George had taken up a more extensive scheme for the benefit of his less fortunate fellow-countrymen. Being convinced that the inhabitants of the more congested districts in England would have greater opportunities for improving their condition in the New World than at home, he had obtained a grant of a large tract of land in a healthy and fertile region in the interior of British Guiana, on which he had already established a considerable number of settlers.

A town, which he named Eumaling, had been laid out on the shore of a large lake, which formed the headwaters of a tributary of the Essequibo River, and which at its western extremity was bounded by an almost perpendicular wall of rock several hundred feet in height, over which a river, flowing down from some lake far up in the mountains fell in a magnificent cataract, which Sir George determined should furnish the power to illuminate the streets and dwellings of Eumaling, by means of de Montville's electric machines.

CHAPTER V.

AN EVENTFUL VOYAGE.

WHEN Atalyn arrived at Eumaling Castle he found Sir George alone. Lady Denesmore had been for some time in feeble health, and, on the advice of the family physician, had gone to Guiana on Sir George's steamer, the "Essequibo," by which he kept up communication with his colony. Their daughter, Katherine, their only child, was, at the time of his arrival, in London, preparing for the voyage to Guiana with her father by the "Essequibo" on her return, which was then daily expected.

Atalyn soon found himself as deeply interested in the colony as was Sir George himself, and entered heartily into the work in which he found the latter engaged, of selecting the cargo for the next voyage of the steamer. In this his experience in Canada was of the greatest value, as he thoroughly understood the

conditions which obtained in a new country, and what was necessary and useful in such a case. This was so apparent that before he had been many days at Eumaling, Sir George found himself relying almost altogether on the judgment and experience of his young friend, who, later, much to the satisfaction of the former, decided to accompany them on their intended voyage.

In due time the "Essequibo" arrived, by which date the cargo had also been selected, the dynamos received from Paris, and everything was ready for the voyage.

But with her arrival a new and altogether unexpected state of affairs was revealed. Although possessed of an ample fortune, Sir George during the past year, had found his colony a somewhat serious burden. He had anticipated that the expenses of such a colony would have, to a large extent, to be provided at the beginning, but he had hoped and expected that with the harvest, which was in prospect, he would

obtain some relief. Instead, however, of these expectations being realized, the reports which he received by the steamer, concerning the position of affairs in the colony, were of a most serious and even alarming nature.

Whether through mismanagement or otherwise, the colonists had neglected to cultivate their ground, or take any steps whatever to provide for themselves, and unless supplies were sent to them from England the prospect was that in a few months they would be in want.

But even more serious than this was the fact that liabilities had been incurred in various ways, which Sir George found would tax his resources to the utmost, and by reason of which it was imperative that he should remain in England, until he had succeeded in making provision for the necessities which had so unexpectedly arisen.

In his trouble he turned almost instinctively to Atalyn, and found, to his relief, that the young man was in every way as capable of acting with judicious

promptness and decision in such an emergency, as he was in dealing with a difficult problem in science. To him the probable source of the trouble appeared to be a lack of system and management, which required that some one capable of dealing with such conditions should at once be placed in charge of the colony, with full authority to deal with them as might be found necessary. Sir George, who saw the wisdom of this conclusion, requested Atalyn to further assist him in selecting a person qualified to deal with the case, and when the latter expressed his willingness to proceed at once to Guiana by the "Essequibo," and endeavor to improve the condition of affairs in the settlement, he felt that the heaviest part of his burden had been removed.

Such changes in the supplies, which the altered condition of the colony had made necessary, were quickly made, and Atalyn was furnished by Sir George with full authority to act as appeared necessary, to meet the difficulties which he should find on his arrival at Eumaling.

But Sir George had another source of anxiety. Lady Denesmore's health had not improved, and from the report of the "Essequibo's" captain, who was an old and trusted friend of the family, it was clear that her condition was becoming even critical.

This made it appear absolutely necessary that Katherine should join her mother without delay, and the good captain strongly urged that she should do so. Accordingly, accompanied by her faithful old attendant, Dinah, she sailed on the "Essequibo" when she left for Guiana, which she did as speedily as possible, without taking the colonists who had intended going, as Sir George had decided not to send out any further settlers until the affairs of the colony were placed in a more satisfactory position.

On the sixth day after she sailed, the "Essequibo" encountered the storm of the 21st Sept. On the afternoon of the same day the crew were seized with a sudden panic, the officers who attempted

to restrain them were overpowered and thrown overboard in the struggle, and then the terror-stricken cowards, rushing to the boats, crowded into them as they were lowered, only to be swamped as they reached the water, and thus, almost before our friends were aware of what had occurred, they were left alone on the ship.

Atalyn, reaching the deck as the last of the boats disappeared, sprang to the wheel and brought the steamer up before the wind. Throughout the night and during the next day, and until midnight, he held her before the gale; and then, when at the moment they were dashed into the breakers, and no escape seemed possible, the steamer suddenly glided out of the storm into waters calm as a lake; there came the reaction from the tremendous strain of the past thirty-six hours, exhausted nature could endure it no longer, and he fell unconscious on the deck.

CHAPTER VI.

A MYSTERIOUS COUNTRY.

WHEN Katherine, who was still at the window of the deckhouse, saw Atalyn fall, she hastily summoned Dinah, and with her assistance placed him on a couch in the house. Dinah quickly and skilfully applied such remedies as were available, and they soon had the satisfaction of seeing him fall into a natural and healthy sleep, from which he awoke, fifteen hours later, feeling none the worse for his experience in the storm, and ready to do ample justice to the tempting repast which Dinah had prepared, but which was somewhat hastily despatched in his anxiety to learn more about their surroundings.

From the deck it was seen that they were in an immense bay or harbor, some three miles in width from east to west, by two miles from north to south. The

steamer had drifted up to the north-eastern corner of the harbor, and now lay at what appeared to be a point of land which extended into the water, and really formed a wharf or quay where she was fully protected from any storm which might arise.

The western side of the bay was shut in by a high rocky ridge, which curved round to the south, and ended abruptly in a bold headland, three hundred feet high, at the edge of a channel a quarter of a mile in width, leading out through the reefs which extended from the shore, and by which channel the steamer had entered the harbor.

On the east, a perpendicular wall of rock, a thousand feet high, extended for two miles from north to south, and, as they afterwards discovered, formed a mountain two miles in length, by one mile in width at its widest part, somewhat oval in shape, with perpendicular walls on all sides, and apparently, like Mount Roraima in British Guiana, an inaccessible mass of rock, which, from its resemblance to the latter, Katherine had already named Roraima.



"A park-like country with magnificent trees," p. 79.

Like its namesake, it had a stream of water flowing from its summit, which fell in a curtain of mist to the ground on the northern side of the mountain, and ran in a sparkling stream in a north-easterly direction to the sea.

To the north of the harbor, the land rose from a beach of smooth white sand, with an easy ascent, extending several miles in an open, somewhat undulating and park-like country, with magnificent trees scattered over it in groups, and clumps, or singly, while beneath them the ground was covered with soft, velvety grass as smooth as a lawn. Everywhere, as far as the view extended, the place had the same well-kept appearance, from which it seemed to follow, as a matter of course, that they had been driven by the storm to some civilized country, and that they might expect to see the inhabitants at any moment.

Besides this, there was what appeared to be even stronger evidence than the general appearance of the country that the place was inhabited, for they could

see, in various directions, herds of cattle grazing, or standing idly beneath the trees, while near the base of the mountain were flocks of all the varieties of fowls usually found in a carefully stocked poultry yard. But, while all these things seemed to leave no doubt but that there were human inhabitants, the complete absence of dwellings or buildings of any description was to our friends a most unaccountable circumstance, especially as the point where the steamer had landed appeared to be the place where the usual surroundings of an ocean port would be found.

The steamer had drifted to the quay in the night, and consequently had been in her comfortable berth during the whole day ; but although her tall masts could be easily seen for a very considerable distance, the day passed and night fell without a human inhabitant having appeared in sight.

Atalyn was not without a feeling of anxiety, for, although they had seen neither men nor wild beasts, he was by no means certain they were not to be found ;

and if there were human inhabitants, it appeared to him that if they were disposed to be friendly, they would have approached the steamer during the day, while, if, on the other hand, they were hostile, they might attack them in the darkness.

It was, however, impossible to move the steamer away from the land, for, in addition to everything else, she had gone into the dock-like space, where, in fact, her keel rested on the sandy bottom at low tide and held her fast, and, in view of this, he determined to keep watch, which he did, but the night passed without incident or disturbance of any kind.

The next morning, after discussing the strangely mysterious state of affairs over the breakfast table, he decided, in order to ascertain more about the place, to go to the top of a hill about half a mile from the landing, and from which an extensive view could be obtained of the surrounding country. He determined, however, when he set out to the hill, to leave his companions on the steamer, as they could not foresee what dangers might be encoun-

tered while away, and it was with some anxiety they saw him set out on his expedition. But, while it was considered advisable that they should not accompany him, Katherine made what preparations were possible to render assistance should it be required. Atalyn's first care had been to lay out some firearms which were on the steamer, so that they would be available in case of attack. These she brought on deck to be ready for use, and then, taking a position where she could watch his progress, awaited his return.

Katherine Denesmore was always equal to an emergency. She was now twenty years of age, and from her childhood had been accustomed to a free, outdoor life ; equally at home in the saddle or pulling an oar, she was besides an excellent shot, and an expert on the golf links which she had established at Eumaling Castle, after a visit to Scotland. In appearance she was unusually striking. Above the average height, with a straight, graceful figure, dark hair and eyes and classic features, which her outdoor life had tinted with the

bloom of health, she presented, as she stood on the deck and swept the country with a telescope, a rarely attractive picture.

But while she followed these outdoor pursuits with intense delight and enthusiasm, they were not by any means the things which were first or highest in her estimation. In her studies and in acquiring the accomplishments necessary and usual for one in her position and station, she had been as diligent and enthusiastic as she was in her recreations; but, most of all, she was beloved for her goodness of heart, her sympathy and kindness, and the magnificently practical way in which she carried out her desire to be of use, and to render assistance wherever it was required. No hut was too poor or mean for her to visit and minister to the sick or unfortunate, and no poor neglected child too squalid or uninviting looking, to be outside the range of her sympathy and help. Thus, while it was not strange that she should be a universal favorite with her companions and friends, she was almost

worshipped by those whose heavy burdens she was constantly endeavoring to lighten, and many and sincere were their expressions of regret, when it became known she was to leave Eumaling Castle, even for a time.

Through the trying experience of the storm she had calmly awaited the course of events, watching for any opportunity of rendering assistance, and ready when it was required. In the same way, she had prepared for the possibility of enemies being encountered by Atalyn, on his expedition to the hill-top, and then quietly awaited either the enemy or his return.

In less than an hour he arrived again at the steamer, without having met with an adventure of any kind. From the hill top the view extended for several miles to the north, on the east to the sea, and westward to the rocky ridge which protected the harbor, and which was continued for some distance northward. But nowhere was a human being to be seen, although he carefully examined the whole of the country within his view with a telescope.

The cattle scarcely stopped in their grazing to look at him in passing, and even the herds of deer and the birds showed no alarm when he approached them.

Among the trees he saw fruits of every description to be found in the tropics, growing in the greatest profusion, while gorgeous flowers bloomed on every side. The grass, closely cropped by the animals, grew in a smooth thick turf, as soft as a velvet carpet, while through this enchanting region the stream from the mountain wound its way, here sparkling brightly in the sunlight as it fell over some pebbly descent, and there widening into a cool pond, until it reached the sea.

Having satisfied themselves that there were no enemies to be feared, at least in their immediate neighborhood, our friends now turned their attention to another circumstance which had from the first excited their curiosity, and they now felt should be investigated. In the solid walls of Mount Roraima, on the western and northern sides, which at the point where the steamer lay were at right angles to each

other, and formed a sharp corner, there were a number of window-like openings at regular intervals, and on the northern side, at a point about fifty yards from the steamer, a larger opening, like an arched doorway, about six feet wide by eight in height, and twelve feet from the ground.

There were no signs of life about these openings except the flocks of rock pigeons and other smaller birds which flew in and out of them, from which Atalyn judged that they were otherwise uninhabited.

In any case it was most important that our friends should ascertain, whether or not they had any neighbors in their immediate vicinity, and to this end Atalyn, by means of a ladder from the steamer, cautiously ascended to the doorway, and seeing no enemies, advanced into it, and found himself in an entry or vestibule about twenty feet square, with an arched roof springing from each side to the centre, where it was fifteen feet in height.

Opposite the opening by which he had entered, there was a massive door which stood partially open, and which led into a

much larger chamber, the size of which he could not determine without some means of lighting it, as it evidently extended for some distance into the mountain.

He was, however, satisfied that the rock chambers were uninhabited, except by the birds which had built their nests within them. The dust lay thickly on the floors, unmarked by footsteps except his own, and there was nothing to break the silence but the fluttering of wings when some of the birds flew in or out, which they continued doing without being disturbed by his presence.

Having ascertained this much, he descended, and then, after providing themselves with lanterns and other necessary articles from the steamer, the whole party ascended the ladder, which he drew up after them and left in the first chamber, after which they lighted the lanterns and passed through the inner door, into an immense hall cut out of the solid rock, which they found was a hundred feet in length by almost eighty feet in width, and with a roof so lofty, that the light of the lanterns failed to reach it.

The floor of this chamber was smooth and level, and covered with a fine dust which lay unbroken and unmarked, except where the prints of their own footsteps appeared. In the western side of the chamber there was a doorway leading into a wide hall or corridor, which extended towards the harbor, and between which and the northern side of the mountain were a series of chambers of different sizes, lighted by the openings or windows which they had seen from the outside.

At the end of the hall there was a larger chamber which occupied the corner of the mountain, and in which there were windows looking out, both on the harbor and northwards on the landscape in that direction. On the south and east sides of this chamber were doorways leading into smaller rooms, all of which were perfectly lighted and ventilated by the windows in the rocky walls.

At the end of the corridor, where it opened out on the large central chamber, the entrance was closed by a massive door of bronze, as was also that to the large

chamber from the vestibule, and both of which doors were found to be in perfect order.

When our friends had completed their exploration they were almost speechless with amazement. There could now be no doubt but that at some period a people capable of executing the most tremendous works had occupied the country. But when? And who were they? And why had they so unaccountably disappeared? The mystery was only deepened by what they had seen, for the stupendous nature of the work required to excavate the chambers in the living rock, could only be compared to some of those marvellous achievements of the ancient Egyptians, which can scarcely be paralleled in the present day, even with the aid of all the appliances which are now available.

But, if no satisfactory answer was as yet forthcoming to the questions which arose in their minds, Atalyn quickly realized the value of the discovery which they had made. The rainy season was fast approaching, indeed it might be said

to have already commenced, and the steamer would afford them, at best, but a very inadequate shelter from the tremendous storms, which frequently prevailed during that part of the year. In the rock chambers they would be safe, and protected not only from the weather but from enemies of almost every kind as well, for, when the bronze doors were closed and fastened from the inside, no one could force an entrance to the chambers, unless they were provided with artillery.

Returning to the large central hall, they found a small room on the eastern side of the vestibule, out of which a much larger one opened, and both of which were also lighted by windows as on the other sides.

In the larger of these rooms they found still further cause for surprise. At the end opposite the entrance, a bronze pipe, about eight inches in diameter, extended from the floor up through the roof, and near the floor were a number of openings to which distributing pipes could be attached, and which were now carefully closed.

It was evident that the purpose of the pipe was to convey a supply of water to the chambers, and from this it was apparent that it must extend to the top of the mountain where the water supply was to be found.

But there was before them other evidence of the high achievements and skill of the people who had once lived in this strange country. From the side of the room a wide stairway, which was also cut in the rock, led upwards with broad steps and an easy ascent. Twenty-five feet from the floor there was a landing forming a wide platform, with seats cut from the stone, and lighted by windows in the walls. From it the next flight of steps ascended in an opposite direction to the first, and thus continued until it reached the top, and ascending which our friends at length passed through an opening in the rock, closed by a door of bronze, similar to that which closed the entrance from below, and found themselves on the top of the mountain, a thousand feet above the sea.

CHAPTER VII.

THE MYSTERY DEEPENS.

FROM the top of the mountain a matchless view extended in every direction. On the east and west was the sea almost at their feet. To the north the landscape for a distance of about five miles was apparently the same in its general character, as they had observed in the neighborhood of the mountain. The rocky ridge on the western coast was continued northward, and gradually spread and widened out in a series of hills and valleys until it reached the eastern coast. There it terminated, about fifteen miles from Roraima, in a mountain on which Atalyn, by an almost involuntary exclamation, bestowed the name of Mount Royal, as he recognized the familiar outlines of the well-remembered eminence at Montreal, beneath whose shade his college days had been passed. The bold bluff at its



"From the top of the mountain a matchless view extended in every direction," p. 92.

western end was apparently about the same height as that on which they stood, and, sinking away in graceful undulating lines from its highest point, it reached the level of the sea at the eastern coast.

But it was not only the features of the landscape before them which attracted their attention, for their position was now more clearly revealed than it had been hitherto. Beyond the mountain was the sea. They were on an island of no great extent, with no other land in sight, even from the lofty height on which they stood, and, although they had a sound and seaworthy steamer at command, they knew that without assistance they could not safely venture to escape from it.

There was that, however, which even more strongly attracted them in another direction. The top of the mountain was an almost level plain, with here and there a slight eminence, which varied what would otherwise have been monotonous.

Around the edge or margin of the plain was a wall six feet high and ten feet wide, cut for the most part from the solid rock,

and where there were irregularities in it, built of huge stones cut and fitted so accurately, that it was with difficulty they could be distinguished from the rock itself.

The whole mountain top had evidently been laid out by a landscape gardener of matchless skill, which was even then apparent on every side.

A quarter of a mile from the entrance to the stairway, and about midway between the two sides of the plain, there was a small lake almost circular in form, and some three hundred yards in diameter. A stream of water flowing out of the lake in a carefully constructed channel, ran past the door at the stairway to the mountain side, where it fell in the cataract which was seen from the deck of the steamer, while a small side channel, also cut in the rock, led to the top of the pipe by which it was conducted to the chambers below, but which was now closed by a bronze cap carefully fitted on the top of it.

Around the margin there were what appeared to be lookout stations in the wall, and in the garden-like enclosure, which



"A magnificently imposing structure * * * rising high above the surrounding trees," p. 95.

practically included the whole of the mountain top, were trees and shrubs, with fruits and flowers of every description, growing in the greatest profusion. Beneath the trees there was the same smooth, grassy turf which was seen in the other parts of the island, while scattered about in all directions they saw herds of small deer feeding on the rich grass, and altogether undisturbed by their presence.

But beyond the lake, and almost in the centre of the mountain top, they saw what had filled them with amazement and admiration, from the moment they passed through the door from the stairway. On a mound, somewhat elevated above the general level, was a magnificently imposing structure, built of some clear white material and rising high above the surrounding trees, by which the lower parts of the building were to some extent concealed. From the place where they stood there was nothing to indicate that the building, whether palace or temple they could not tell, was a ruin ; on the contrary, it appeared to be perfect in every particular, as

though it were only then fresh from the hands of its builders.

But here, as elsewhere, notwithstanding the unmistakable evidence which was afforded of the presence of civilized human beings at some former period, there was the same unaccountable absence of anything to indicate that they still remained on the island. The dust lay thickly and undisturbed in the chamber at the top of the stairway, as it did in those below. The animals and birds manifested no alarm when approached, and, while the grass and herbage were closely cropped, it nowhere showed the hand or care of the gardener.

Atalyn was always cautious, and while his companions remained concealed in the doorway he went towards the building alone, keeping as much as possible in the shelter of the trees ; but when he had gone completely around it he was satisfied that it was deserted, and quickly returned for the rest of the party.

Following a broad smooth road, which circled the lake, they soon arrived at the front of what was now seen to be a royal

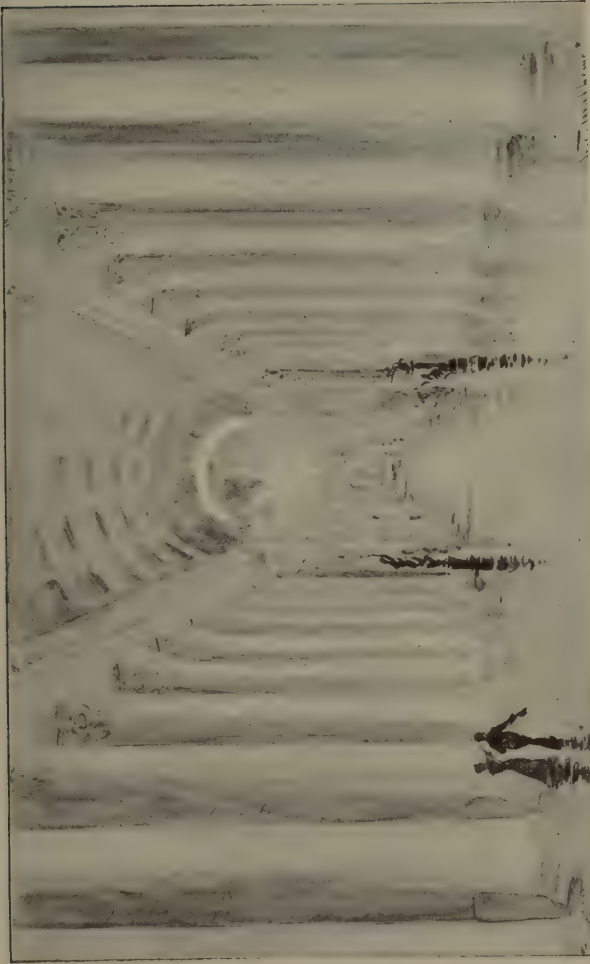
palace. Before it there was a magnificent terrace set with shrubs and flowers, arranged with admirable taste, which was still apparent, although the only care they had known for ages, was that which had been given by the animals in cropping the herbage around them.

The palace, before which our friends now stood, was of royal proportions, being about six hundred feet in length by three hundred and fifty in width, and three stories in height, built of great blocks of a clear white alabaster-like stone, which shone and glistened in the sunshine. The walls were ornamented with carvings and sculpture of the most exquisite design and artistic character, while the windows were each a single crystal. A flight of steps, thirty feet wide, of the same white material as the building itself, led up to an entrance of almost unparalleled magnificence. The broad steps and the portico at the entrance were clear and transparent, so that they seemed to vanish away beneath their feet, and as they ascended them there came over them a strange and indescribable feeling

of awe and reverence, until they could almost imagine that when the majestic doors of golden bronze before them opened, it would be to usher them into that unseen world, where the sorrows and burdens of humanity are gone forever.

How long they stood thus, as it were in some invisible presence, they scarcely knew, but Atalyn, rousing himself from the spell which was upon them, advanced to the massive doors, which yielded to his touch, and together they passed through them, followed by Dinah, into a vestibule, from each side of which a broad flight of steps led to the upper parts of the building.

Opposite the entrance there was a door through which they passed, and found themselves in a hall or audience chamber of such immensity and magnificence, as to baffle description. A hundred feet in width by twice that depth, and fifty feet high, every part of the chamber was of the purest alabaster, so clear, and wrought into such marvellous forms, that, as they entered, pavement and pillar and roof and



"A hall or audience chamber of such immensity and magnificence as to baffle description." p. 98.

walls seemed to fade away, and leave them in some ethereal realm of spirits.

As they stood on the threshold, with the feelings of awe with which they had approached it deepened and intensified, the great chamber was suddenly filled with an indescribable radiance, as the rays of the sun, falling upon hidden windows or prisms, were projected into every part of it.

While they still remained at the door in speechless wonder, the glowing colors began to fade, and soon gave place to a soft white light which filled every part of it, except directly opposite the entrance, where there was a royal throne raised on a dais, and which was now thrown into bold relief by a rosy glow which streamed from it and behind it, like the light of the rising sun.

At length they turned away from the almost unearthly scene, and slowly ascended one of the great stairways until they reached the highest part of the building, but, although they could only glance at a few of the numberless halls and rooms which it contained, they were convinced,

even from the moment they entered it, that the wonderful palace, like the rest of the island, was without a human inhabitant except themselves. From the top of the building the whole mountain top lay spread out before them, and they saw in every part of it the same careful arrangement which they had observed in the parts near the stairway. The wall completely encircled the mountain, but at the southern end of it there was what appeared to be a lofty platform of rock, which extended across its whole width, with two large openings in it and three broad flights of stairs, one at each side and one in the centre, leading to the top of it.

After a somewhat hasty view from the top of the palace, our friends descended to the grounds, as they deemed it necessary that they should examine every part of the mountain top before leaving it, in order to ascertain beyond question whether or not there were inhabitants in any part of it.

It was now mid-day, and when they reached the terrace in front of the palace they found that Dinah, who had not ac-

accompanied them to the roof, had prepared a tempting luncheon, which she had anticipated would be required before they returned to the steamer, and having done ample justice to it, they now proceeded to explore the remaining part of the mountain top to the southward.

The same broad roadway, which extended from the entrance at the north to the palace, was continued beyond it to the platform at the south, which was reached in a short time and without difficulty.

The mountain at its southern end was somewhat rounded in form, and the platform, extending across its full width, had a length of half a mile, while in the centre it was about two hundred yards in width. From its appearance it seemed to have been cut out of the solid rock, as were also the stairways and the wall which surrounded it on all sides.

Midway between each of the stairs was an archway, fifteen feet in height and twenty feet wide, cut into the perpendicular wall, and leading, as was found, into another and larger tunnel which ex-

tended across the whole width of the mountain. The platform was deserted, and Atalyn turned at once to the nearest archway, which they entered, and cautiously advanced until they reached the cross tunnel with which it was connected.

Although at a considerable distance from the entrance, they found the interior of the tunnel was as clear as day, the light being reflected and thrown into all parts of it by some ingenious arrangement of mirrors or reflectors. On the northern side were a number of vaults or store-rooms, some of which appeared to be filled with stores of various kinds. On the side next the sea was a gallery running parallel with the tunnel, and connecting with it by wide doorways or arches, the roof of which gallery was supported by heavy pillars of rock.

Near the centre, and completely surrounding one of the pillars, there was a large circular basin hewn out of the rock, into which a stream of water flowed from the lake, filling the basin with a constant supply of clear fresh water, and then run-

ning through a waste channel to the side of the mountain, over which it fell into the sea.

In the side of the gallery nearest the sea, there were, at regular intervals, ports or embrasures looking out on the water, and in each of them a huge breech-loading rifled gun, which, in so far as mechanism and finish were concerned, might have been taken for the latest production of a Krupp or an Armstrong. In all, Atalyn counted fifty guns of different calibre, so arranged that the fire of the whole battery could be concentrated on any part of the channel, which furnished the only entrance through the reef into the harbor. In the face of such defences the strongest modern iron-clad would have been as helpless as the war canoe of a savage, as the plunging fire from this great height, and from guns, many of which threw a conical shell, which Atalyn estimated should weigh about one thousand pounds—a plentiful supply of which were found in the store rooms—would pierce through the deck and bottom of any vessel which

came within range, whatever the material used in its construction.

Why such a tremendous battery, capable of throwing tons of metal in a single broadside, should have been considered necessary for the defence of the island, unless, indeed, the war vessels of those days had reached the same degree of perfection as had the guns themselves, was a difficult question to answer ; but here, as in the palace, was evidence of the fact, that away in the dim past, the people which then inhabited the island had attained to a degree of civilization, which, in some respects at least, equalled that of the present day.

But there was no time for speculation as to what the answer to this question should be, or even for a careful examination of this ancient Gibraltar, as it was imperative that our friends should reach the steamer before nightfall. Passing hastily through the remaining part of the works, they returned to the stairway by a road on the eastern side of the mountain similar to that on the west, and in due time reached the steamer, as the sun disappeared from sight.

CHAPTER VIII.

COMFORTABLE QUARTERS AND STRANGE RECOLLECTIONS.

THOROUGHLY fatigued by their exertions, and overwhelmed by the amazing discoveries which had been heaped one upon another during the day, neither Atalyn nor Katherine could even hazard a conjecture concerning them ; but outside of the effects of either fatigue or wonder, another thought, to which both gave utterance at the same time, filled their minds.

Almost from the moment when they had first looked upon the island from the deck of the steamer, they had felt that in some strangely mysterious manner it was all familiar to them, and yet every effort to connect it with any part of their previous experience completely failed.

But while this was the case, each new discovery which they made seemed to

deepen the impression, that at some former period of their lives, the mountain, with its rock chambers, its gardens and lake and palace, had been linked with their existence, and, notwithstanding its seeming impossibility, the feeling that these impressions were in reality recollections of a former experience, and not mere disordered fancies, continued to grow upon them, and strengthen with every new experience on the island, until they, in their inner consciousness at least, if not openly, came to the conclusion, with scarcely a question remaining in their minds, that they were now revisiting the scenes of a long-forgotten childhood.

But other matters of urgent necessity now claimed their attention. The rainy season had in fact already begun, and the steamer, although in a great measure protected from the fury of the storms by the mountain, would afford but a very inadequate shelter. The rock chambers, on the other hand, would furnish an ideal refuge, and the work of preparing them

for occupation was taken up without delay, as there was now no doubt that the island was deserted, at least in the neighborhood of Roraima, and no exploration of the northern parts could be made until the return of the dry season.

Atalyn's first care was to construct a light but convenient stairway to the door in the mountain side, which could be easily drawn up at night or whenever it was desired to render access more difficult, and then, without waiting to complete such arrangements as were required in the interior of the chambers to be occupied, a plentiful supply of everything which they considered necessary was stored in the large central chamber, after which he carefully closed the exposed parts of the steamer, and put it in the best possible position to resist the fury of the elements.

To Dinah the task of preparing the different apartments for their occupation was most congenial. The dust of ages on the floors disappeared as if by magic, and the walls soon rejoiced in tints pleas-

ing to the eye, applied by her vigorous brush. In each of the openings in the walls Atalyn carefully fitted a window which was strong enough to resist the storms, and which could be opened during fine weather. The floors were covered with rugs, and with suitable furniture and even articles of ornament, of all of which there was an ample store on the steamer, the rock dwelling, under Katherine's artistic arrangement, soon assumed an appearance, not only of comfort, but even of luxurious elegance. A piano, removed from the steamer by an ingenious mechanical appliance, gave a touch of home to the rock-girt salon, while by the same means a convenient range was installed, much to her satisfaction, in Dinah's well-furnished kitchen.

But Atalyn saw in the course of their preparations an opportunity for testing some of the results of his investigations, while adding to their comfort and the convenience of their dwelling. Before closing the steamer he removed to the rock chambers one of the dynamos with

its attachments, together with a water motor which had been specially constructed to operate it, besides a quantity of pipe suitable for conveying a supply of water to the apartments which they occupied ; and after having completed their other arrangements to render their dwelling habitable, he attached the water motor to the large pipe which conveyed the water from the lake on the top of the mountain, and soon had the satisfaction of seeing the rock chambers brilliantly illuminated with electric light.

As it was the commencement of the rainy season he also prepared a garden plot, which by the time the dry season returned, boasted of almost every variety of plant to be found in an English or Canadian garden. A stout paling built from the shore near the steamer, to a spur of rock which ran out from the mountain, protected it from the animals, and within it, in deference to Dinah's wishes, he built near the waterfall, which was also enclosed in the garden, a shelter for a sedate cow with which she had

established an acquaintance, and the poultry which she took under her special care, with the result that their table was furnished with the choicest products of the dairy and the poultry yard, besides a boundless supply of fruits, which were ripening in every part of the island which they had visited.

Besides this, there was an almost unlimited supply of everything necessary for their use in the hold of the steamer. There was thus no reason for anxiety on their own account, but the certainty, which they knew would soon be felt by their friends, both in England and Canada, that they had been lost in the storm, weighed heavily upon them, especially in view of the almost inevitable ruin which the loss of the steamer would cause to Sir George and his colony.

But our friends realized fully that it would be folly to allow vain regrets to interfere in any way with their devoting their best efforts to the devising of some means of escape from the island, and, during the two months of storm and

tempest which followed their landing, there was scarcely a day which did not see some new plan discussed, only to be discarded, as they felt that, in addition to the risk to their own lives, the safety of the steamer was a matter of sufficient importance to forbid their attempting to leave the island without further assistance, unless it became absolutely necessary to do so.

On the return of fine weather, when the long dry season began, the exploration of the remaining parts of the country was resumed, always with the hope that some civilized inhabitants would be discovered; but after they had gone through it until they stood on the highest point of Mount Royal, they found they were without any doubt alone on the island.

There was, it is true, throughout the whole of it the same undoubted evidence, that at some remote period it was occupied by a highly civilized people, the remains of whose work covered the entire face of the country, even to the slopes of

Mount Royal, which still showed the terraces laid out on its rocky sides, and the channels which conveyed the waters of a small lake on the top of the mountain down its sides, to irrigate the fields and gardens which occupied its slopes ; but here, as elsewhere, it was clear from the appearance of the country, that ages must have passed away since that wonderful people had disappeared. Unless, therefore, some vessel should visit the island and bring them help, they could see no means by which they could safely venture to leave it.

CHAPTER IX.

UNWELCOME VISITORS.

ON the western coast, about two miles from Roraima, there was a small, almost land-locked bay, connected with the open sea by a narrow and crooked channel.

In the course of their explorations our friends had passed it, although too far to the eastward to be able to examine it closely ; but as the channel, which could be noted at a distance, might furnish an entrance to either friend or foe, Atalyn determined to visit it as soon as possible in order to satisfy himself as to the danger, or otherwise, which might be expected from that quarter. The day following their return from Mount Royal he set out alone, going in the direction of the bay, and carefully noting the character of the country in passing through it, which, however, was much

the same in its general appearance as that which they had already seen.

At the bay, the smooth, sandy shore rose with a gentle ascent from the water to a high rocky ridge which shut it in, forming an almost semi-circular plain, with a narrow opening to the north between the rocks and the water, and another somewhat wider to the south.

As he turned the corner of the rocks which hid it from view, he beheld a ghastly spectacle. In the centre of the space before him a huge fire had been built, of which only ashes and cinders now remained ; but scattered over the sand in every direction, there lay spread out a horrible profusion, the sickening remains of a cannibal feast.

For some minutes, how long he scarcely knew, Atalyn stood, filled with an overmastering feeling of horror and loathing ; then, as the sickening details of the scene forced themselves upon him, there came over him a fierce desire to utterly destroy the wretched beings, who were guilty of this hideous offence against humanity.

But, as he still continued gazing as if fascinated, the thought of the danger to himself and his companions, and the almost certainty of the horrible fate in store for them, should the savages return and discover them, came home to him. That they would return was almost a foregone conclusion, and it was equally certain that their retreat might be discovered, or they themselves surprised when they least expected a visit from such unwelcome neighbors. The danger was a real one, and if they would escape from it it was imperative that measures should be taken without delay to meet it.

Atalyn was intensely practical, and it had become second nature to him to act with promptness in an emergency. In order to meet the danger intelligently, the first thing to be done was to ascertain the exact position of affairs, to which task he at once addressed himself. From a careful examination of the beach he concluded that six large war canoes had landed, and from the appearance of the place generally, that some two or three days had elapsed since the canni-

bals had left the island. A hundred or more of these human wolves had thus visited the bay, and were liable to return at any time, perhaps to surprise them, for with their fiendish cunning the savages could easily approach even to the steamer without being discovered.

The prospect was sufficiently disquieting to cause the gravest anxiety, and Atalyn realized fully the extent of the danger by which they were threatened. Before leaving the place, to assure himself that none of the enemy were now in sight, he climbed to the top of the ridge which enclosed the bay, and from which he could obtain an extended view in every direction.

This done he returned at once to the mountain and made his unwelcome discovery known to Katherine, with whom he discussed the threatened danger and the best means of meeting it. At first the sole question in his mind was how best to utterly destroy the savages, and plan after plan suggested itself only to be rejected, because in all of them there

was the danger that some of the enemy would almost certainly escape, only to return eventually with a force against which all their resources would be unavailing.

At length Katherine suggested the possibility of so terrifying the savages by a display, which to them would appear nothing short of supernatural, that they would, through fear for themselves, keep away from the island for all time to come. This suggestion seemed to meet every difficulty, and besides it avoided the necessity for taking human life, to which our friends were both averse, even though it were that of cannibals, and almost unavoidable if they would save their own lives.

This course was therefore adopted, and Atalyn proceeded to carry it out at once. As a precaution, however, he first established a lookout at a point near the top of the stairway from which the bay and part of the shore could be seen, so that they might have as much warning as possible of the approach of the enemy,

and each morning and evening, as well as in the middle of the day, he visited the watch tower, and thus kept himself informed as to the presence or not of the enemy on the island.

To carry out the plan which they had adopted, he found the most ample resources at his command ; he had at hand three agents, fire, water and electricity. An assortment of Chinese fireworks and lanterns, intended for a celebration in honor of the founding of Eumaling, furnished the first ; the great waterpipe from the top of the mountain the second, and the dynamo the third ; with these three forces, controlled by a trained scientist as resourceful as was Atalyn, almost any required effect could be produced.

As a visit from the enemy was possible at any moment, he lost no time in preparing for them, and at the end of a week he had completed his work so much to his satisfaction, that he almost wished the savages would pay them a visit, in order that they might test the welcome which he had prepared for them.

If such were his wish it was not to remain long unsatisfied, for on visiting the lookout on the third morning after he had completed the work, he saw ten large war canoes drawn up on the beach, while a host of savages were busily preparing for the hideous feast which was to follow, and here and there, scattered about near the landing, where they had been taken from the canoes and thrown down on the sand, were a large number of unfortunate victims, lying bound and awaiting their horrid fate.

No time was lost in making everything ready to receive the unwelcome visitors, should they approach Roraima. Old Dinah's first care was for her friend the cow, which she drove into the enclosure, and securely fastened in a pen, where she was concealed from sight. The gate was closed and barred ; two heavy wires which were stretched on the outside of the paling, one at the top and the other midway between that and the ground, were charged with a powerful current of electricity, and all the other details of the

plan for defeating the savages carefully attended to.

Having thus made everything secure, they drew up the stairway and placed a barrier in the door so as to cut off all access to their retreat, and Atalyn then ascended to the lookout, where he remained to keep a watch on the movements of the savages.

Fortunately, at the distance at which they were from the bay, the sickening details of the orgie could not be seen, and as the day passed it seemed as though they were so occupied with the feast, that they would probably leave the island, as they did on former occasions when the feast was over, without visiting any other parts of it.

But towards evening, through an altogether unexpected occurrence, they were suddenly brought in force directly to the mountain. It was well indeed for our friends that they had been forewarned, and had prepared for the enemy, and how complete and effectual these preparations were, can best be judged from the effect which they produced, when the savages came within reach of them

CHAPTER X.

A WARM RECEPTION.

THE event by which the savages were brought to Roraima was the unexpected escape of one of their prisoners. While Atalyn was still watching them from the lookout, and had almost concluded that the danger was over, for that day at least, he saw the figure of a man suddenly spring up from the shade of a clump of bushes, and set out at full speed in the direction of the mountain. When his flight was discovered he had already gained a considerable distance, but about fifty of his captors started in pursuit, and as he ran towards the mountain he led them directly to it.

When it became apparent that the fugitive would probably reach the enclosure without being overtaken, Atalyn hurriedly descended from the lookout and

turned off the electric current from the wires as he reached the fence, and, without a moment's hesitation, sprang over it, and, continuing his flight across the enclosure, concealed himself from view.

Quickly turning on the current again, Atalyn saw the foremost of the savages rush to the fence as the sun sank below the horizon, and the sudden darkness of the Tropics shut them out from sight; then, a moment later, there arose out of it a chorus of yells of pain and terror, which told them that the enemy had encountered the protecting wires, with their deadly current of electricity.

Thus far everything had come to pass most fortunately, especially in the arrival of the savages just as darkness fell upon them, as it furnished all the conditions necessary to give them the full benefit of the preparations which had been made for their reception.

Atalyn now proceeded to carry out his programme. In the large chamber at the foot of the stairway, where the dynamo was installed, there was a

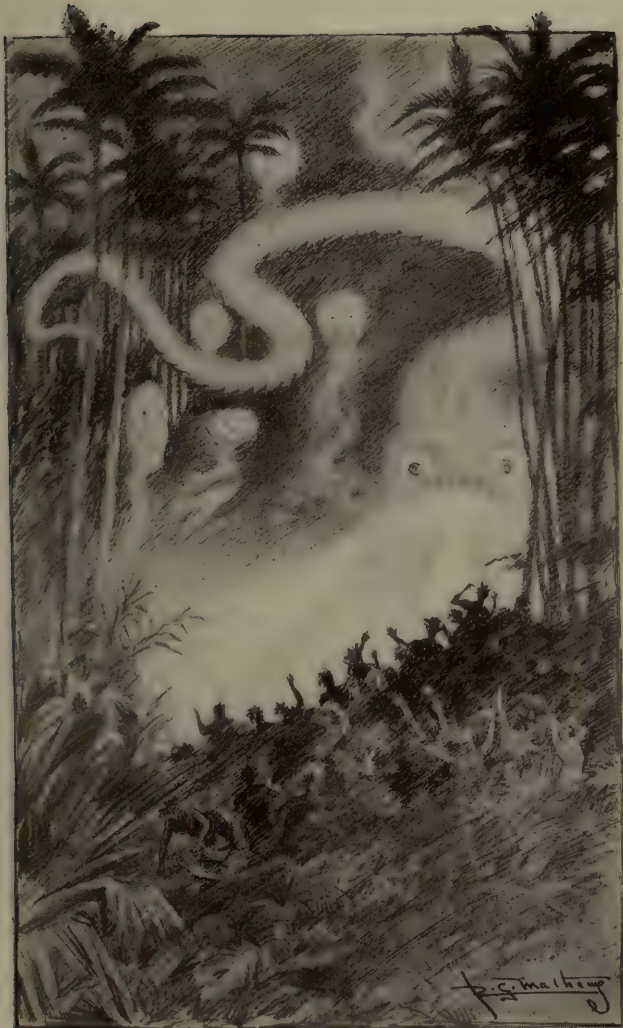
window which commanded the whole extent of the approach to the mountain, from the harbor on the one side to the stream on the other. At the side of the window was a table, on which stood a shaded lamp, showing a number of electric switches and buttons which were connected with wires leading to various points, where at the proper time the electric current would do its appointed work. No ray of light escaped from the windows ; outside everything was hidden in thick darkness, and no sound broke the silence, save the rush of the waterfall.

Suddenly, as Atalyn closed a switch, a hideous looking face, shining with a greenish light, looked out from the branches of a tree near the gateway, showing in its sickly glare the savages huddled together in abject terror.

A moment later the face disappeared, and from the opposite side of the grounds near the steamer a fiendish shape, more hideous and appalling, if possible, than the last, and blazing with

a fiery red light, glared upon them from the top of a small palm tree, then another and another, and several at the same time, fiends and dragons and hobgoblins, shining out in every imaginable shade of color, glared and grinned upon them as Atalyn moved the switches on the board. Then there was a sudden darkness, broken a moment later by the flash from a small brass gun on the deck of the steamer, from which a huge rocket-like missile, spitting forth a vicious train of fire, shot into the air, mingling a howling, shrieking chorus with the roar of the gun.

But no time was given to the terrified cannibals to recover from the horror and surprise which had seized upon them. With the pressure of a button here and there on the table, a tongue of flame shot up at various points, in a semi-circle beyond the place where the savages lay, so as apparently to completely cut off their escape. Then the flames grew into a great vari-colored burning wall, out of which whole battalions of fiery warriors



"Fiends and dragons and hobgoblins," p. 124.

seemed to rush forth, attended by hosts of blazing serpents and dragons.

Faster and more furiously the devouring flames reached out, as though eager to swallow up the terrified savages, when, with a rattling volley of explosions from hidden mines, the flaming warriors suddenly vanished, leaving them in utter darkness. A moment later, from an ancient gun in a battery which Atalyn had discovered at the top of the mountain, directly above the landing, there burst forth a roar which seemed to rock the mountain itself, and out of the blaze and flash from the gun there sprang a huge, fiery dragon, darting hither and thither and shrieking with fiendish glee, until it appeared at length to stop for an instant over the spot where the enemy lay, then with a yell of triumph it darted downward upon them and disappeared; but at the moment when it appeared to touch the ground there was another explosion from a large gun on the steamer which shook the solid earth, and out of the blazing throat of the gun, apparently

the same dragon shot up into the air, shrieking and howling like a legion of fiends let loose, and bearing away in its talons what seemed to the horror-stricken savages to be one of their number.

Fire and electricity had now done their part, and Atalyn turned to administer the last stroke of the punishment which he had prepared for the invaders.

Stretching out from the mountain side to the gate, there was an iron pipe connected with the larger one, which conveyed the waters of the lake to the chamber. To the end of it, at the gate, he had attached a flexible nozzle, which by an ingenious appliance he could move in any direction, by turning a wheel in the chamber where they were. Adjusting the nozzle so that it bore directly on the savages, who were still huddled together near the gate in a very stupor of fright, and with the stream, under the tremendous pressure from the column of water one thousand feet high directed upon them, he opened the valve which controlled it.

As the icy water struck them with all its force, they were thrown and tumbled hither and thither like autumn leaves in a gale. Awakened from their stupor they sprang up, yelling with uncontrollable terror, and rushing headlong through the darkness, regardless of the obstacles in their way, with only the one thought of escaping from the demons whose sport they had been, they at length gained their canoes, and scarcely waiting to make known their terrible experience to their companions they put to sea, choosing rather all the dangers of a voyage in the darkness, than the risk of another encounter with the powers of evil.

No savage ever again ventured near the island, but around their camp-fires the story of their experience on the "Island of Devils" filled the listeners with a terror which was scarcely less than that felt by those who told the story; and the fate of their unfortunate companion, who had been carried away by the dragon before the eyes of his

comrades, so the story was told, became a tradition of the tribe ; for when the savages reached their own country one of their number was missing, but Atalyn found him the next morning, still grasping the deadly wire which slew him, and he gave him a decent burial.

CHAPTER XI.

JIM, AND THE KEY TO THE MYSTERY OF THE ISLAND.

SIMPLE as had been the means employed, the rout of the cannibals was complete, and much less time was required to bring it about than to describe it.

But although there was little reason to fear a return of the enemy, Atalyn did not consider it prudent to leave their shelter until daylight, even to search for the fugitive, who he rightly judged would remain in hiding until the morning.

As soon as it was light he went in search of him, followed by Dinah, who, from the moment the escaped prisoner came into view, had shown a strange uneasiness.

After a few moments' searching they found him concealed beneath some

bushes near the base of the mountain, and lying in a state of unconsciousness. He was a fine-looking, well-built negro of perhaps thirty years of age, and evidently a prisoner taken by the savages, as he had nothing of the Carib in his appearance.

Atalyn was about to raise him up, when Dinah, with a cry like a wounded animal, rushed forward, and taking the head of the unconscious man in her lap, with tears and lamentations gave herself up to uncontrollable grief.

At length Atalyn gathered from her incoherent exclamations that the fugitive was her son Jim, who had been taken from her when little more than a child, and sold into slavery, and who was now returned to her, as she thought, a lifeless form.

Being satisfied that he was still living, and that he had not suffered any serious injury, Atalyn quickly obtained and administered a simple remedy, and soon had the satisfaction of restoring her son to old Dinah, as she thought, from the dead.

Jim proved himself a most valuable

addition to the little community. Naturally skillful, and accustomed to all kinds of work in his slavery days, he insisted on doing everything which was to be done, and could not find sufficient means by which to express his gratitude for his deliverance from the horrid fate which threatened him at the hands of the cannibals. Thus, between Jim and Dinah, whose gratitude was as strong as his own, the wants of our friends were more than anticipated, and they were left free to continue their investigations, which they carried on more earnestly than ever, in the hope of finding out the secret of the mysterious island, to which their steamer had been so providentially directed four months before.

Strangely enough, it was Jim who furnished them with the information which cleared up the mystery. It was now the middle of the fine season, and they had fitted up apartments in the palace on the mountain, which at that time of the year was much more pleasant than their dwelling in the rock, however comfortable the latter had proved in the rainy season.

As soon as they were established in the palace, they began a systematic exploration of the vast building, in the course of which they went carefully through every part of it; but almost up to the last, although they found many things suitable for their use, and which greatly contributed to their comfort, they found nothing which gave them the information which they sought.

At length they came to a chamber near the centre of the building, approached by a difficult labyrinthian passage-way, which was altogether different in appearance from the other parts of the palace which they had seen. At one end of the chamber there was an altar, approached by several steps, and beyond it on the wall a golden representation of the sun. A flood of pure white light completely filled the room, but its source was unseen, and no window or opening which communicated with the outer air was in sight.

While they still remained standing at the entrance, gazing on the shining sun, on which the light was directed by some un-

seen contrivance, so that it seemed to burn and blaze and send out a dazzling stream of light, Jim suddenly approached the altar, and began to move certain ornamental parts on the front of it ; pressing in a golden petal here, moving a leaf aside there, until, with a loud click, a part of the top flew up and revealed a cavity within.

From this he drew out a curiously shaped casket, made of bronze and ornamented on the outside in much the same manner as the altar itself. There was nothing else in the cavity which contained the casket, which Jim took up and carried out to the part of the palace which they occupied.

While they watched him thus go to the altar and take out the box, as though he knew where it was hidden, and possessed the key by which its hiding place was revealed, Jim, seeing their expression of wonder and surprise, explained that, when in Central America, he had seen a temple with an altar similar to the one before them, and had been shown how to open it by a great traveller, who had found pieces

of bright metal in the altar with strange figures on them.

While he was giving this explanation he was examining the box, and in a few minutes succeeded in opening it, as he had opened the altar. In it there were a number of thin metal plates of a peculiar red color, fastened together by two links which were passed through them at one end, so as to allow of their being successively turned over.

The tablets were inscribed on both sides with strange looking figures, which completely covered them. As Atalyn took them up and began to turn them over, an exclamation of surprise escaped from him, for, as he did so, he saw here and there a familiar character, and as he continued to examine them the meaning of the inscription began to appear. Wonderful and almost impossible as this may seem, it had come about in a most natural and ordinary manner, when Atalyn's characteristics are considered.

As has been seen, he had from his earliest years shown a peculiar aptitude for languages, and had made a

point of acquiring a knowledge of every language to which his attention was drawn. To meet with a word or quotation from a strange tongue was itself sufficient to set him to work to acquire it.

When a student at McGill University, he chanced to meet a certain M. de Brasseur, a French traveller and explorer, who had spent several years in Yucatan, which he had devoted to the study of the ancient writings and inscriptions, found almost everywhere in that part of Central America, and who, he later concluded, was the explorer to whom Jim had referred.

These inscriptions and writings, to which his attention had been drawn, were written in the language of the Mayas, whose alphabet, with a description and explanation of the language, was preserved by Bishop Landa, in his history of the Mayas and their country. This alphabet, it is claimed, the Mayas received from the Colhuas, who were succeeded in Yucatan by the Mayas about 1000 B.C.

De Brasseur was an enthusiast on the subject of his investigations, and he found

in the young student one who was equally so. Together they studied the inscriptions and writings which the explorer had brought with him, with the result that Atalyn soon surpassed his instructor in his mastery of the language, and much of the credit which the famous explorer eventually received for his successful researches was in reality due to the assistance given him by the young Canadian student.

Now, on the tablets before him, Atalyn recognized the same familiar letters, somewhat archaic in form, it is true, but still sufficiently clear to be deciphered with comparative ease, and thus it was that, although the inscription before him had been placed on these ancient tablets countless ages before history began, and in a land the very existence of which is now by some denied, when the tablets lay before him in the old palace on the mountain, he read at once in the superscription these words : " The Last Will of Atlas, King of Atlantis."

Here, then, was the solution of the mystery. The island to which they had been

so providentially driven by the storm was a "Bit of Atlantis," and the marvellous works they had found on it had come down from that wonderful people, through all the countless ages which had passed away since they lived in that earthly paradise. In these tablets was perhaps written the story of their achievements and their misfortunes, and to the task of learning that history, our friends now addressed themselves.

The sun had scarcely disappeared in the west when they began, Atalyn translating and Katherine writing, as he deciphered the words on the tablets. As the wonderful story was unfolded, and its direct personal bearing on themselves and their own fortunes was realized, they forgot the passing hours, and when the last words were written on the page before them, the eastern horizon was aglow with the light of morning; and truly a story more wonderful in itself, and in its revelations concerning those to whom it was now made known, might well challenge the most daring flight of the imagination to conceive.

CHAPTER XII.

THE LAST WILL OF ATLAS, KING OF ATLANTIS.

“ I AM Atlas the King. I am the last of
“ the Kings of Atlantis, for the king-
“ dom has vanished, and I go soon back
“ again to the Mighty One from whom I
“ came.

“ But to you, my sons, Atlas and
“ Eumelus, who bear the names of the
“ first of our race to reign over the mighty
“ Empire of Atlantis, and whom I have
“ sent forth to the land of the rising sun,
“ that you might play your part like men,
“ as your fathers did in Atlantis, I now
“ address my last words, and on you I lay
“ my commands. But, lest they should
“ appear to you unreasonable, I will first
“ recount to you the history of your native
“ country, and the manner and reason of
“ its disasters and final destruction.

“ Know, then, that the island in the
“ mighty ocean, from which you set sail

“ with the last of the warriors of Atlantis,
“ by my command, to go to the land of
“ the rising sun, was but a fragment of the
“ once Mighty Empire of Atlantis, for the
“ time was when there was an island in
“ the great sea, three thousand miles in
“ length and one thousand miles wide, in
“ which was the seat of our empire, and
“ where our fathers reigned as kings.

“ But not only over that great island
“ did they reign, for our empire extended
“ far out towards the rising sun, beyond
“ the pillars which are the gateway to the
“ sea which is surrounded by the land,
“ then past the confines of that sea, and,
“ further still, until it reached the borders
“ of the mighty ocean itself. To the set-
“ ting of the sun our empire covered the
“ opposite continent, until it reached the
“ other side of the same ocean, by which
“ it was bounded on the east.

“ Of the splendor and magnificence of
“ that empire you saw but little, for, alas !
“ while you were still of too tender years
“ to understand these things, the hour of
“ its destruction came, and of all the once

“ mighty Atlantis there remained only
“ this island, from whence you went out,
“ and where now I, your King and your
“ father, await the summons to go out to
“ the Great Unknown Land from whence
“ we do not return.

“ But, in the days of its prosperity, the
“ empire of Atlantis was the glory of the
“ whole earth, for the splendor of its
“ temples and palaces, and the mighty
“ works which were found in it, have
“ never been and never will be excelled.
“ Of gold and precious jewels there was
“ such abundance that no men could esti-
“ mate their value. From the earth there
“ sprang up all manner of grains and
“ fruits and flowers, and fragrant things,
“ which could be required for food, or the
“ other uses of man, or to give pleasure
“ by their beauty and bright colors. In
“ this was our nation the first and the
“ benefactors of all those who shall dwell
“ in the earth, for we took the herbs and
“ the grass of the desert and the wilder-
“ ness, and from them we, by our wisdom
“ and culture, produced the plants and

“ grains which now furnish food and cloth-
“ ing for mankind. Likewise we took the
“ wild beasts of the forests, and through
“ us they became the servants of man.

“ Then besides those things which were
“ produced in the country itself, and the
“ animals kept for our use, and with which
“ for the most part you are familiar, our
“ ships brought to Atlantis the productions
“ of all the most distant parts of our em-
“ pire, and from foreign countries as well,
“ so that there was to be found in it all
“ that could by any be desired.

“ Chiefly I would mention that our
“ ships ascended the mighty river, which
“ flows through the centre of the opposite
“ continent lying to the westward, until
“ they came to the region wherein are the
“ great seas whose waters are fresh, and
“ there they found and dug out of the
“ earth the precious metal which is red ;
“ and again they sailed to the eastward
“ and brought to us the white metal from
“ the island which lies near to the great
“ continent, and by mixing these metals
“ together we obtained the material with

“ which to fashion all those things, which
“ gave the artificers of our nation that
“ which maintained its pre-eminence in the
“ earth, and especially that with which
“ they fashioned our mighty warships,
“ and those instruments whose thunder
“ and lightning flash terrified our enemies
“ and the thunderbolts of which destroyed
“ them.

“ But it needs not that I dwell further
“ on the glories of our nation, for, alas !
“ they have gone forever ; rather will I
“ hasten to tell you how they were lost.

“ So prosperous were our people, and so
“ greatly did they multiply, that at length
“ the land could not contain them, and
“ thus it came to pass that many of them
“ moved to the lands to the westward,
“ where they founded great and mighty
“ nations which remain to this day ; also
“ they removed to the east, and in course
“ of time they peopled the islands from
“ whence we obtained the white metal,
“ and then they passed through the strait,
“ which is guarded by the mountains
“ which are called the pillars of Heracles,

“ until they possessed the lands on the
“ shores of that sea and the whole of the
“ continent to the northward, and from
“ that they again pressed further towards
“ the rising sun, as the land became too
“ strait to contain them, carrying with
“ them our language, our laws and our
“ civilization.

“ On the other continent also, where
“ the inhabitants are dark-skinned, our
“ people founded colonies, and the great
“ mountains of that region are called by
“ our name. Thus were our customs, our
“ laws and our civilization spread abroad
“ throughout the whole earth, until all
“ lands were filled with the glory and
“ owned the power of Atlantis.

“ But through the riches and fame
“ which our people thus acquired, and as
“ they increased in wealth and power,
“ they became haughty and overbearing ;
“ they gave themselves up to all manner
“ of excesses and pleasures, and no longer
“ sought to excel in those virtues through
“ which they had become strong and
“ mighty, and had obtained their pre-

“ eminence in the world. This they did,
“ although our wise men, and those who
“ still sought to save them and our
“ empire from the ruin which they fore-
“ saw would result from such evil prac-
“ tices, warned and besought them to
“ avoid and abandon them, but they re-
“ jected and refused the warnings and
“ prayers of the wise men, and, as the
“ years passed, for this did not happen in
“ a short time, they rather increased in
“ wickedness, until at length, so corrupt
“ did the people, both high and low, be-
“ come, that the Mighty One, our Creator,
“ by whose power was our empire upheld,
“ and to whom the hearts of our nation
“ at the first were turned as one man,
“ looked down upon them, and, where
“ there had once been only virtue and all
“ those qualities which are worthy of es-
“ teem, He now saw only corruption and
“ vileness unspeakable.

“ In a dream of the night, this Mighty
“ One, whom I have served throughout my
“ whole life with all my powers, warned me
“ that the destruction which was surely to

“ come on those of the evil life was about
“ to fall. I was bidden to seek refuge in
“ the great mountain, where the waters do
“ not fail ; and then my children, when I
“ had sought refuge with you and the few
“ who were still faithful to me, in one ter-
“ rible day and night the judgments of the
“ Mighty One descended on the rebellious
“ race, and when that awful night had
“ passed, except the land which had been
“ given to us for a refuge, the mighty islands
“ of Atlantis had gone down into the depths
“ of the ocean, and in the place where it
“ had been there was a sea of mud.

“ From that day of awful vengeance, my
“ children, my life was spent for you alone.
“ Your mother had passed into the great
“ beyond before the dreadful day of de-
“ struction had come to our people, and so
“ I watched over your tender years, and
“ strove to give to you both a father’s and
“ a mother’s care. As your years increased,
“ it was my consolation and joy to see you
“ grow in wisdom and in all those manly
“ virtues which had made our nation great.
“ When at length you had reached man-

“ hood, and you were prepared to go out
“ into the world, and take your place as
“ men worthy of our royal line, then
“ knew that my work was done, and that
“ the time had come for me to prepare for
“ the last journey, to the land where those
“ who had gone before were awaiting me.

“ But in that hour there was given to
“ me, my children, to see what the future
“ years would bring to you and to the
“ house of Atlas. I saw you journey to
“ the islands near the great Continent, and
“ I saw you play a noble part for the land
“ of your adoption.

“ Then I saw the years pass by, and
“ those who came after you were noble and
“ virtuous, and brave and tender. Their
“ voices were heard in the Councils of the
“ mighty nation, which, like the resurrec-
“ tion of Atlantis, grew up in those islands,
“ and their blood was spilled in its defence,
“ until at length, in the fullness of time,
“ when the centuries had become thou-
“ sands, and even the name of Atlantis had
“ become a tradition, I saw coming again
“ to the Mountain of Refuge, you, my son

“ Atlas, as you appeared in the glory of
“ your strength on that day when I sent
“ you forth into the world ; and with you
“ there came one who, descended from
“ your brother Eumelus, brought back again
“ to me the day when your mother ascend-
“ ed the throne of Atlantis, my Queen
“ and theirs. Then was my heart glad,
“ for, although the throne and the empire
“ of Atlantis had perished, I knew that the
“ house of Atlas would still remain a
“ power for good in the world.

“ But I saw, too, a stranger take our
“ place, and drive out one whose right it
“ was to dwell in the home of his fathers.
“ But to you, my son, the heritage of your
“ fathers will soon return. It has been
“ wasted these many years by the usurper,
“ the name of Atlas has been made a hiss-
“ ing and a reproach, but not by our own,
“ and to you, my son, it remains to restore
“ its ancient fame and honor.

“ The vision passed away, and I knew
“ that my work was done. I sent you
“ forth, my son, to bear your part in the
“ world, not burdened with unnecessary

“ riches, but with ample for all your wants,
“ and with all that could aid you in your
“ work.

“ Your good ship sailed away to the
“ eastward ; with you I sent those who
“ had cast in their lot with me, and I charged
“ them to serve you faithfully. I stood
“ on the Mountain of Refuge, and gazed
“ after you; my blessing went with you, and
“ it has followed you down through all the
“ ages since that day. Then I did com-
“ mand that no man, except those who
“ should serve you, should touch this sa-
“ cred island, and this Mountain of Refuge,
“ until you, my children, whose right it is,
“ should come to your heritage.

“ Now, be it known to you, my child-
“ ren, that this, my last will and my dying
“ wish, was written that you might know
“ that I have awaited your coming, and
“ have guarded the treasures which are
“ yours. In the treasure-house beyond
“ the altar, I gathered together that which
“ has awaited your coming, and then I have
“ entered in to keep my watch, until you
“ come to claim your own. In the centre

“ of the golden sun behind the altar is
“ the key to the treasure-house. Enter it
“ without fear, for what is therein is yours,
“ and I your father am there, waiting for
“ your coming. Only, my children, suffer
“ a word of warning ; riches unthinkable
“ are yours, but beware of the evil through
“ which, by their riches, the men of Atlan-
“ tis went down to destruction.

“ Again, a last word. Escape from this
“ island, for this mountain is no longer a
“ Mountain of Refuge, when my days of
“ watching are over ; but faint not, for my
“ blessing will still attend you, and so
“ shall you prosper while in your hearts
“ you continue to guard those virtues
“ and noble qualities which made our
“ nation great.”

CHAPTER XIII.

THE TREASURE CHAMBER AND THE KING.

WHEN the last words were written the pen fell from Katherine's fingers, and her overwrought feelings found relief in tears.

As for Atalyn, he was scarcely less affected, and for a time neither could trust themselves to utter a word.

All was now clear to them. The unaccountably familiar appearance of the island and the palace where they now were, had come down to them both, a strange and mysterious inheritance, from the days when Atlas and Eumelus had played beneath the trees on the Mountain of Refuge, and from the one, the last of the kings, who, sending forth their fathers into the great world, remained in the palace on the mountain, majestic in his lonely vigil, and watching through the long ages, which would pass before they returned again.

Now his last message was before them, and they knew he was awaiting them in the treasure chamber behind the altar. Of the treasures which were there they thought not; all their thought was centred on that old man, who, solitary and alone, had seen the last of his people and his children sail out on the great ocean, and had then taken up his watch which was to endure until they came again, even although his weary spirit had gone out to the great beyond.

Together they arose, and without a word being spoken, they went to the altar chamber and up to the golden sun; then, when Atalyn pressed on its centre, a door of bronze opened before them in the wall, and the treasure chamber was revealed.

Lighted from the top in the same mysterious manner as the altar chamber, they were for a moment almost blinded by the blazing light from gold and precious jewels, which were literally heaped up before them. But it was not these they sought, nor on these that their eyes were

fixed, for, opposite the entrance, seated as when he entered that chamber to begin his lonely vigil, they saw a man of majestic form, scarcely yet beginning to show the approach of age, and apparently in the full noonday of his strength. No mark was there upon him to show that ages had passed away since his weary spirit had gone to its rest, but in every line the form before them was as perfect and lifelike, as it was when he reigned over the mighty Empire of Atlantis.

Standing in the doorway, they gazed with awe-struck reverence on the figure before them; then, moving forward, Atalyn laid his hand on that of the peaceful watcher. As he did so Katherine, looking from one to the other, saw in the form and features of her companion the counterpart of the one who was once the King of Atlantis.

Long and tenderly did they linger in the presence of their great ancestor, and when at length they turned away, they reverently closed the door with scarcely a glance at the gold and jewels, which



"Seated as when he entered that chamber to begin his lonely watch, they saw a man of majestic form," p. 152.

were heaped up around them. Then they returned and read again his last message to them, as though they would listen for his voice to come to them from the written page.

Again and again they read the words until they seemed to burn themselves into their minds, but, as they did so, the pages faded out, and there remained before them only the last words of warning, as the message he would now give to them : “ Escape from this island, for “ this mountain will no longer be a “ Mountain of Refuge, when my days of “ watching are over.” This was his direction and his warning to them. Without hesitation they accepted it as such, and without delay they determined to act upon it.

With Jim’s assistance, Atalyn now considered it possible to navigate the steamer with at least some degree of safety, but, however that might be, they felt they were now subject to the orders of the King, and their duty was to obey them.

Atalyn's first care was to thoroughly examine the steamer, which he found in perfect order, notwithstanding her rough experience in the storm, and, having satisfied himself on this point, he turned to the other preparations which were necessary before they could secure the inheritance, which had come to them in such a marvellous and unexpected manner. The stores of gold and precious stones had to be secured and conveyed to the steamer, and this alone was a work of many days.

In the treasure chamber they found cases of bronze, prepared for the jewels and precious stones, into which they carefully placed them, and when they had done so they counted fifty cases filled with incalculable riches.

But when they began to secure the store of gold, it was then that the magnitude of their task became apparent. In the chamber there were vessels and ornaments of solid gold almost without number, and many of immense size and weight. Besides these there were heaped

up, as men heap up wood or iron, bars of the precious metal piled upon each other, until the imagination was staggered, and refused to take in the meaning of the riches before them.

Daily, however, the work went on. Jim was invaluable. He first brought a store of planks from the steamer to the palace, which he forthwith proceeded to convert into substantial cases, suitable for containing the different articles, which in due time, with the aid of a prosaic truck, he conveyed to the stairway and stored in one of the chambers at the foot of it, until they were ready to embark on the steamer for the homeward voyage.

From the time when they first decided to leave the island, and without a spoken word concerning it, both Atalyn and Katherine found the same thought arise in their minds, that when they left it, they would bear with them the one who had watched and waited, throughout the long ages, for their coming. But, as though they would still have his care and direction, they left him as they had

found him still seated in the treasure chamber, and as they continued their work, there seemed to come to them the conviction, that in some mysterious manner they were being guarded and cared for through his presence.

By the time the work was completed the month of April had arrived, and with it the short rainy season. The weather suddenly became tempestuous, and our friends congratulated themselves that the treasures had been safely stored in the rock chambers in the mountain, and that they had with them there the one who had been Atlas the King; for when the last of the gold and jewels had been safely removed, they had reverently and tenderly borne him forth out of the palace and into the sunshine, which he had last looked upon when he stood on the mountain top, and gazed over the ocean, on the white sails of the ship which was bearing away his people and his children from his sight, and then they passed along the old familiar path beside the lake to the stairway, and down to the chambers

below, into one which they had with loving care prepared for his reception.

None too soon did they reach their shelter. Indeed, they had scarcely entered it, when a storm of unparalleled fury burst upon the island, and continued to rage for several days, with even increasing violence.

During the storm the rain fell in torrents, and the thunderous roar of the breakers on the reefs penetrated even to the chambers in the rock ; but, more alarming still, in the midst of the tempest the mountain was shaken as if to its foundations by a sharp earthquake shock.

The storm ceased as suddenly as it began, after having raged for five days, but when Atalyn looked out after it was over, he was appalled by the destruction which it had wrought. Great trees which had defied the storms of centuries were levelled to the ground, and the whole face of the country was changed, so that it was now a confused mass of tangled ruin. Fortunately, the steamer was uninjured, the mountain had protected it

from the fury of the storm, and this alone had saved it from being wrecked.

But there was another circumstance which brought the greatest alarm and uneasiness to our friends, and caused them to hasten their preparations for leaving the island in every possible way. For some days Atalyn had observed that the tide had risen to an altogether abnormal height. At first he supposed it might be caused by the effect of the storm, in driving unusual quantities of water through the channel into the bay; but when, as he found, it remained at the same height after the storm had passed, it was evident that some other reason must be found to account for it.

As soon, therefore, as the weather moderated sufficiently to permit of his doing so, he carefully examined the shore and the basin where the steamer lay. This was in reality an ancient Atlantean dock, apparently the actual spot from which the ship, with Atlas and Eumelus and the last of the warriors of Atlantis, had set out on its voyage to Britain.

Across the entrance, and indeed well into it, a bank of sand had accumulated, through which the steamer had been driven, with scarcely sufficient water to enter it at high tide, while it rested altogether on the sand when the tide was out.

In those seas, the crystal waters offer no impediment to sight, and even the smallest objects are visible at great depths.

When Atalyn reached a point where the entrance to the dock could be seen, he noticed at once that there were several feet of water between the keel of the steamer and the sand, although it was then low tide. More than this, there was on the sand beneath the steamer the well defined mark which she had left on it, thus proving conclusively that it had not been washed away by the action of the water. There was no longer any room for doubt or question as to the cause of the abnormal tides. The evidence was before him. The island was sinking.

CHAPTER XIV.

THE DOOM OF THE ISLAND.

THE warning which they had received from Atlas the King, to escape from the island, had not been given without good reason. It was truly now no refuge for them, and their preparations for leaving it were pressed forward with almost feverish haste.

The treasures of the old palace were carried on board, even Katherine insisting on sharing the work with the others, and at length the morning arrived on which they had fixed to leave their island refuge, now no longer a refuge, but threatened with the most appalling of disasters.

Jim had begun work hours before, and the volumes of smoke issuing from the steamer's funnel told that she would soon be ready for the voyage. Old Dinah insisted on taking her friend, the cow,

which she had comfortably installed on board with an abundant supply of food, and besides which she had taken everything she could gather from her garden, or remove from the house.

But now an unaccountable change began to come over the landscape. The hour of ten had been fixed for sailing, but at nine the sky, which had been without a cloud, became overcast, and a peculiar yellowish haze gathered around the horizon. The air was absolutely still, and breathing seemed to become every moment more difficult. Everywhere the animals and birds shewed signs of the greatest alarm and uneasiness, and everything indicated some approaching catastrophe.

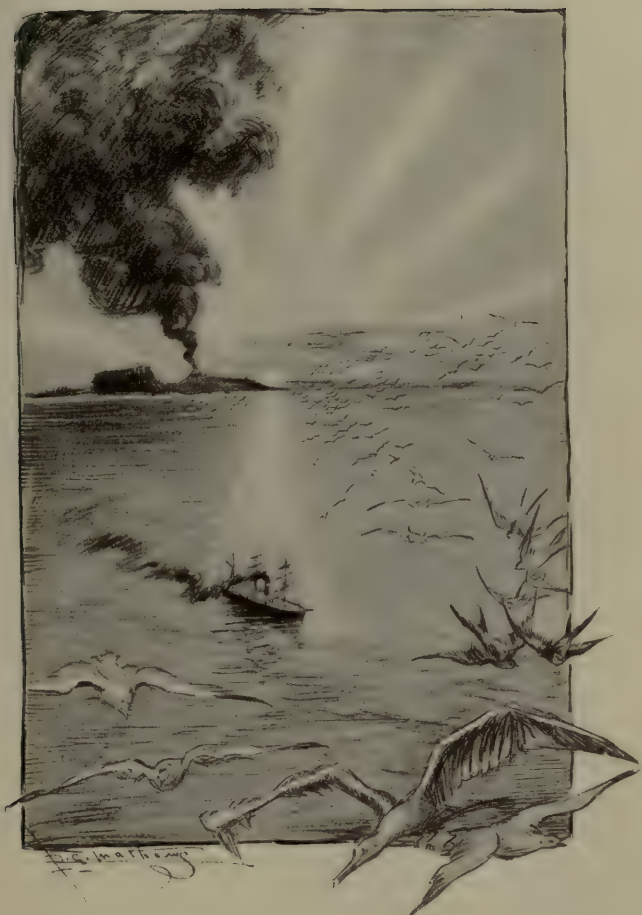
To Atalyn these signs were fraught with the gravest meaning, and he hurried their preparations to the utmost. At last nothing remained but to bear on board Atlas the King, but, as they did so, the island trembled with a sudden shock to its very foundations. Quickly casting off the lines which held the steamer, Atalyn

rushed to the engine-room and set the engines in motion. Katherine was already at the wheel when he reached the deck, the steamer had begun to back steadily out of the dock, and was soon far out into the harbor, turned towards the channel leading out to sea.

Again he went below and reversed the engines, and then going on deck took the wheel, as the steamer began to gain headway away from the land.

For a moment only he had allowed himself to glance at the island, as he guided the steamer away from it, but, in the few minutes which had elapsed, what a change had taken place. The stream, which had been pure sparkling water, was flowing with thick mud. Away to the north a great column of inky smoke arose from the summit of Mount Royal, and spread out in a huge threatening cloud above it, which seemed to be closing down like some dread destroyer upon the fated island.

Steadily the steamer went forward, with Atalyn at the helm, carefully pilot-



"A great column of inky smoke arose from the summit of Mount Royal," p. 162.

ing her through the channel, until, at length, they reached the open sea, and set their course to the north-east.

When safely clear of the land he turned to look at the island, which now presented a grand and appalling spectacle. From the top of Mount Royal, great volumes of flame rolled out, rending and scattering the darkness, and tinging the inky cloud above it with a lurid glow.

On Roraima a huge geyser of mud arose where the lake had been, standing up high in the air so as to be seen from the deck, and already it began to flow over the battlements into the sea. Around the reefs a curling line of breakers began to run with a hungry, cruel look, like a wild animal half in fear and half in anger, yet not a breath stirred the deathlike stillness of the atmosphere.

On the island all was commotion. Animals were running hither and thither in frenzied terror, seeking some way of escape from the impending destruction.

A flock of small birds flew out to the steamer and perched on the yards, while a great eagle, flying from his ruined home on Mount Royal to Roraima, but, finding there no safety, rose high in the air and sailed away to the west.

The steamer was rapidly leaving the land, and Atalyn, to give Jim a view of the spectacle of terrific grandeur which was now presented, called him to the deck, but only a moment did he look upon it, then terror-stricken he rushed to the furnaces and worked with frantic energy, to hasten their escape from the neighborhood of the doomed island.

As for Atalyn he could scarcely conceal his anxiety, for he feared a sudden collapse of the island, which would destroy the steamer in the vortex, or overwhelm her with a tidal wave even at a distance from it. But, as the hours passed, the sea remained without a ripple, and, as the steamer continued steadily to increase her distance from the land, the danger appeared to lessen, until, before the sun had set, the island

had disappeared below the western horizon, and only the black cloud, lighted by the glow from the volcano, could be seen. But still they held their course throughout the night, and when they looked to the westward in the morning, even the cloud of smoke had disappeared.

In the afternoon the smoke of a steamer was seen ahead, and soon H. M. S. "Argus" came up with the "Essequibo." After hearing their story, and furnishing Atalyn with a crew and such assistance as he required, the Man-of-War steamed away to the island, but when they reached the place where it had been they found only a sea of mud. This last "Bit of Atlantis" had disappeared beneath the ocean, as the great island itself had gone down ages before.

Six days later the "Essequibo" reached Portsmouth harbor, which they had left six months before. After they had placed the gold and the jewels in safety, and leaving Jim and Dinah to guard the precious remains of Atlas the

King, Atalyn and Katherine set out at once to relieve the sorrow of their friends, by whom they had long since been given up as lost.

With Sir George things had gone badly indeed. The unsatisfactory state of his colony and its demands upon him were taxing his resources to the utmost; the supposed loss of his steamer with its valuable cargo had increased his difficulties to an alarming degree, indeed to such an extent that he feared even the home, which his ancestors had held ever since the history of the country began, and no one could tell how long before that time, would be lost to him.

But all this was as nothing compared with the loss of his only child, which he felt had indeed left him desolate. Added to this was his sorrow and regret for the untimely death, of which he had now no doubt, of the young man who had come to him with such ready assistance in his hour of need, and for whose loss he now felt that he was in a certain sense res-

possible. But besides this, he had from the first felt himself strangely drawn to Atalyn ; this feeling had grown into a sincere regard and esteem before he had left on his ill-fated voyage to Guiana, and his sorrow for Atalyn was equalled only by that which he felt for the loss of his own child.

Thus it was, that when our friends left Portsmouth on that glorious spring morning for Eumaling Castle, Sir George had become so much affected by his misfortunes and his sorrow, that he had almost reached a condition of settled melancholy ; and although he still endeavored to bear up bravely against the tide of adversity which seemed to have set in against him, he was conscious that he was fighting a losing battle, the result of which was neither remote nor uncertain.

Lady Denesmore had returned to England, immediately on its becoming apparent that the "Essequibo" had been lost. Although herself almost overwhelmed by her sorrow and grief, she devoted all her little remaining energy to the task of en-

deavoring to assist and encourage her husband, but it was only too apparent that she was rapidly fading away, and would soon follow her daughter, for whom, although her grief was buried in silence, she sorrowed as only those bereft of all their brightest hopes can sorrow.

From the opening of the year, up to which time they had continued to hope even against hope for tidings of the lost steamer, the conviction had forced itself upon them, that there was no longer room for hope, that the "Essequibo" had escaped that fatal September storm. The cloud of sorrow and despair had gradually settled down upon them, until, at the time when those for whom they sorrowed were already hastening to them, it appeared only too clearly that the burden must soon prove too great to be borne.

Good old Dr. Burton was the lifelong friend of the family, as well as their physician. He had been unremitting in his endeavors to help his friends in their great trouble, but he knew only too well that unless relief came very speedily, the end must soon come to them.

Never had he been so strongly impressed with the utter hopelessness of their case as he was when he saw them one bright spring morning, when he made his usual visit to the castle ; as he drove away from it, he despaired altogether of the possibility of any improvement in their condition, for he realized that it was only by bringing back again those they mourned as dead that they could be roused from their despondency, and he himself had long ago, even before the distracted parents had done so, lost all hope that the storm had failed to claim its victims.

With his mind thus occupied the good doctor continued on his way, but no light broke in on the darkness of the case ; the trouble was beyond his skill ; he was helpless.

But scarcely had he reached this conclusion, when the seemingly impossible came to pass. From a carriage which had approached from the opposite direction, but which in his preoccupation he had altogether failed to notice, he heard his name pronounced, and looking up he beheld in it Katherine Denesmore.

The surprise of the worthy Doctor was beyond description. Had she risen from the grave before his eyes, it could not have been more complete. But there was no room for any such supposition on his part, for never had he noted such a bloom of health as that which had come to her, while revisiting the home of her fathers in Atlantis.

As he realized the fact that it was no vision he beheld, but a healthy, vigorous mortal, and that the relief which they had longed for, but had no longer dared to hope for, had come to his friends, his surprise gave way to joy, not only because joy had come to Sir George and Lady Denesmore, but because Katherine was to him almost as one of his own children. He had watched over her through infancy and childhood, and no one had mourned her untimely fate more deeply and sincerely than the good old Doctor himself.

A few words of explanation sufficed to give him all he wished to know for the present, so impatient was he to relieve

the great trouble of his friends, from whom, although he had given words of cheer, he had turned so hopelessly scarcely thirty minutes before. At once he turned back to the castle, for he judged it best that the good news should not be brought to them too suddenly. Bidding them follow him more slowly, he set out at a pace which was amazing to his steady-going cob, and when Atalyn and Katherine arrived at the castle they found Sir George and Lady Denesmore eagerly awaiting them, their sorrow already forgotten in their joy in receiving them back as from the dead.

For Atalyn their welcome was not less warm, than that which they had for their daughter. They realized fully that it was to him they owed her restoration to them ; but, even without this, it would have been as hearty and unreserved as it was, for his own sake, for Sir George had lost none of his feeling of regard for the young man, and in this the feeling of Lady Denesmore soon equalled that of her husband.

To describe in all its depth and intensity the happiness of Sir George and Lady

Denesmore when they realized that their daughter was indeed restored to them, that she had come through the terrible experience of the storm and all that had followed it safely, and was now before them in the enjoyment of even more magnificent health and vigor than she had ever known, would be beyond the power of words. The crushing sorrow which had left them prostrate and helpless and without a remnant of hope was gone, and almost forgotten in the great joy which had so unexpectedly come to them,

The story of the island and its unheard-of revelations was told and repeated again and again, as once and again some reference to one circumstance or another brought out some part of their wonderful experience on the island which had been overlooked.

They had brought with them the precious tablets, with Atalyn's translation of them, and one of the cases of the most costly gems which they had found in the old palace, but, when Katherine read the story of the tablets, as it brought up

before them the picture of the lonely watcher, guarding the treasures which he had gathered together for his children, and patiently awaiting their coming throughout the countless ages which had passed since they had, by his command, sailed away to those other islands in the East, where in due time the glory and magnificence which had departed from Atlantis should find their resurrection, all sense of the immeasurable distance of time, the ages upon ages which had passed away, seemed to vanish, until their kinsman, who was once the King of Atlantis, came into their lives as one who had walked and spoken with them, and only as yesterday had passed into the great beyond.

And so it was, that when at length they had taken in the scope of the wonderful story, with all its tremendous bearing on their own fortunes, their thoughts became crystallized into feelings of sincere and earnest sorrow and regret for that majestic old man, their great ancestor, to whose thoughtful care they owed all the good fortune which had come to them ; and they

determined that before any other duty was performed, even before the day passed, he should find a resting place with his children.

CHAPTER XV.

“WITHOUT EACH OTHER THE LIGHT WOULD HAVE GONE FROM THEIR LIVES.”

THE days which followed the arrival of the “Essequibo” in England were busy ones. The disposition of the treasures of Atlantis entailed no small amount of work and thought, but for the time nothing further was done than to place them in safety, and make arrangements by which the value of the bars of gold would be ascertained, while the remaining part of the treasures were stored in a safe place to await their final disposition. The first thing, however, which was done was to relieve Sir George’s anxiety by providing for all the claims of the colony.

As soon as possible, the “Essequibo” was refitted and again despatched to Guiana, in charge of a competent person, under whose efficient management the colony soon began to flourish, and even-

tually proved for the settlers all that Sir George had hoped it would become.

In carrying out the details of these arrangements several weeks passed, and Atalyn, as they were concluded, had begun to consider the question of his return to Canada, when Sir George unexpectedly received a letter from Adele, informing him of her father's death.

When it had apparently become certain that the "Essequibo" was lost, Sir George had written to Atalyn's parents, giving them the information which he had concerning it; it now appeared from Adele's letter that, from the time he was informed of the supposed death of his son, Archibald de Montville began to sink beneath the blow, and a month from the day on which he received the fatal letter, he was gathered to his fathers.

To Atalyn the blow came with terrible force, for, although his father had never in reality been to him all that a father should be, he now felt that it was not because of any lack of affection, but in reality because he had not understood him, and the

thought came with it that, mistaken as he was, and obstinately blind as he had remained to the fact that he had from the first made his life a success, he must still have been sorely disappointed, because he was unable to appreciate the fact, that anything outside of his own narrow world could be considered a success. Through it all, it was now seen, his very life was wrapped up in that of his son, and when he was taken away from him, his life faded out because its object was gone. When Atalyn thus realized the strength of his father's affection for him, it seemed as though all the sorrow and regret of a lifetime were gathered up in the first hours of bitter grief which followed the breaking to him of the sorrowful news.

But his duty required that he should return at once to Duvarney. His mother and sister were now alone, and bearing their sorrow as best they could. It is true they would by that time have learned of his escape, for his first care, on arriving in England, had been to send them the news, but, while their burden of grief

would be lightened when they knew he was still spared to them, he realized fully that they now required his presence and help, and he at once prepared for the voyage to Canada.

To the reader who has followed thus far the fortunes of Atalyn de Montville and Katherine Denesmore, it would appear passing strange indeed if, during the half a year which had elapsed since they first met, they had not come to regard each other with feelings deeper than those of mere friendship, or if, when de Montville left Eumaling Castle to sail for Canada, they should thenceforth follow separate paths for the rest of their lives.

It will be remembered that when he first arrived at Eumaling Castle, Katherine was in London, and only returned a few days before the date on which the "Essequibo" was to sail for Guiana. During the period between her return and their departure on the voyage, the thoughts of all were occupied, to the exclusion of all else, with the unfavorable

news from his colony which had come to Sir George, and even to a greater degree by their anxiety concerning Lady Denesmore, and by the changes in their plans which had in consequence become necessary.

During the first days of the voyage, there had grown up between them a feeling of *camaraderie* and hearty good fellowship, such as sometimes exists between those who have been companions from childhood, but is rarely found in those who have met only in later life. In a word, they each found in the other a thoroughly congenial companion, and had the voyage continued without adventure, it is more than probable that, on their arrival in Guiana, they would have had a very clear understanding as to their future.

But with the storm there came an interruption. While it continued, every nerve was strained in the struggle, which was a fight for life. On the island there was from the first the seemingly impenetrable mystery which surrounded every-

thing with which they came in contact ; then the discoveries of each successive day, culminating in the astounding revelations of the Last Will of Atlas, followed by their preparations for leaving the island, and at the last by the tremendous tragedy, for they could call it by no other name, which had witnessed the destruction of this "Bit of Atlantis," the last remnant of the home of their fathers.

Nor had they, on the homeward voyage, room for other thoughts than that of removing the sorrow to which they knew their friends were a prey, since it was beyond question that, long before that time, they must have given them up as lost. At Eumaling Castle, after their arrival, each moment was filled with duties which claimed their whole attention, even up to the time when the sorrowful news arrived from Canada.

In this way, up to the time when Atalyn began his hurried preparations for his voyage, they had gone from day

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to day, full of quiet, restful content and happiness in each other's presence, yet without either of them noting or realizing how much they had become to each other.

But, when the time approached when Atalyn was to leave Eumaling Castle, there came to each of them a sudden and complete realization of the fact, which until then had been hidden from them, that their very lives had, as it were, become so entwined together, that to separate them would be to destroy them. Through all their perils and adventures, although neither in word nor thought had the question presented itself, they had been drawn insensibly together, as each succeeding experience had revealed them more clearly to each other, until they now knew that without each other the light would have gone from their lives, and existence would become a dreary wasting desert.

But when this revelation came to them, there was neither doubt nor hesitation; they understood each other before even a

word was spoken, and there came to them the deep, satisfying happiness and perfect content, which can only come with the knowledge that each is everything to the other.

To Sir George and Lady Denesmore, the event came as a fitting crown to their joy and satisfaction in the restoration of their only child to them. They knew that it was to Atalyn they owed that restoration, but it was because they also knew that her happiness was safe in his keeping, and because of his magnificent character and qualities, that they felt they could ask no better fortune for their daughter, than that she should become the wife of Atalyn de Montville, and when he left on his voyage to Canada, it was to return again in time for a quiet September wedding, on the anniversary of the day on which they had set out together on their voyage to the New World.

CHAPTER XVI.

THE HERITAGE RETURNS.

IN due course Atalyn arrived in Montreal and proceeded at once to Duvarnay, where he found his mother and Adele, bearing their burden of sorrow bravely, but sadly in need of his presence and help, for, owing to the circumstances attending the death of Archibald de Montville, the affairs of the Seigneury were left, to a large extent, in a state of confusion.

In Atalyn's hands confusion soon gave place to order, and at the end of two months from the time he arrived in Canada he left Duvarnay in the care of a trustworthy agent, and set sail again for England, accompanied by his mother and sister.

As the steamer was about to leave the dock at Montreal, a number of letters, which had just then arrived by the English mail, were brought to him. Among

them were letters from Katherine and Sir George, but with them there was also one bearing a Scottish postmark, which proved to be from an Edinburgh solicitor, notifying him that the last of the elder branch of the de Montville family had passed away leaving no heirs, and that the title and estates in consequence having reverted to him, he was now Earl of Altenburgh.

This was a complete surprise to Atalyn, as the last Earl was a comparatively young man, but, beyond this, he had but little information concerning him, as there had been practically no communication between the two branches of the family from a period shortly after the time when Atalyn de Montville left Scotland in 1764.

As was subsequently ascertained, there was a strange similarity between the history of the elder branch of the family, and the nation over which, in the dim past, it had reigned. James de Montville succeeded his father as Earl of Altenburgh in 1769. Up to that time the de

Montville family had been noted for their personal integrity, and the energy and ability with which they had devoted themselves to the furthering of every good work.

But when James succeeded his father in 1769, the old order was changed. In fact, he seemed to possess but few, if any, of the characteristics of the house of de Montville. Of an indolent disposition, he paid no attention to public affairs, and even in course of time entirely neglected his own. The care and management of his estates were left, to a constantly increasing extent, in the hands of an unscrupulous agent, who, taking advantage of his employer's indolence and negligence, looked only to his own interests. Before he had reached middle age he had given himself up altogether to a life of voluptuous ease, which was abruptly terminated by apoplexy when in his fiftieth year.

His son and grandson followed him in turn, each worse than the last. Both came to an untimely end, and were succeeded by his great grandson James.

In the latter, all the vices of the preceding three generations were present and intensified, and to them he added that of a spendthrift, and openly lawless and abandoned character. Giving himself up altogether to debauchery and excesses of every nature, he soon wrecked both his health and his fortune, and when, while he was still a young man, he was found lifeless on the highway, where he had fallen from his horse when returning home in a state of intoxication, he left no one to succeed him, and but a wreck of the family fortune remained.

All this Atalyn only discovered later. Now he could only guess as to the circumstances which had so unexpectedly brought him into the position of head of his family; but, as he did so, the words of Atlas the King came to his recollection: "To you, my son, the heritage of your fathers will soon return."

The voyage was uneventful, and in due time they arrived at Eumaling Castle, where, it is needless to say, they

were heartily welcomed. Nor was it strange that the altogether unexpected and surprising turn of affairs, which furnished such a striking confirmation of the prediction found in the Last Will of Atlas, should have excited the liveliest interest in their minds.

After having spent a week at Eumaling Castle, Atalyn, leaving his mother and sister with Lady Denesmore and Katherine, and accompanied by Sir George, left for Scotland.

The de Montville estates were situated in a romantic region near the border, and comprised miles of mountain and valley and forest and river, with a large lake at the foot of the eminence, on which Altenburgh Castle was built.

The castle itself, one of the most imposing and magnificent in Scotland, dated back in part to a period beyond the beginning of history in that part of the country; and in its more modern parts, which had been added to it from time to time, the original design had been so well adhered to, that the whole

structure appeared as if it had been designed by one master mind.

When Sir George and Atalyn approached the great doorway, which was in the oldest part of the building, the latter could not forbear an exclamation of surprise and pleasure, for he saw before him, complete in every detail, the counterpart of the magnificent entrance to the old palace on the mountain in Atlantis.

But if he found an unexpected welcome and pleasure in the familiar lines, which the vandalism and neglect of the past four generations had fortunately spared, he found ample cause for dissatisfaction and regret in the condition of the place generally. The castle was in a state of dilapidation throughout, and, apart from a suite of rooms which had been occupied by the last incumbent, had apparently been closed for years.

The grounds surrounding it and the park were a tangled mass of brushwood, while the broken walls gave access to

bands of wandering gypsies, and intruders of every description.

The various farms and holdings belonging to the estate, which had been let to tenants, were found to be in an equally bad condition. The buildings and walls were in a state of ruin, but, notwithstanding this, the rents had been increased from year to year, until many of the tenants had abandoned their holdings, which were thus left vacant, and rapidly returning to the wilderness. Thus, through the excesses of the owner, and the dishonesty of the agent in charge of the estates, they had been wasted until but little remained of them, and that little was encumbered to the fullest extent, which its worthless owner for the time had found possible.

Much of this was apparent to any one who visited the place; the rest Atalyn ascertained when he had summoned the solicitor who had notified him of the death of his predecessor, and with his assistance had obtained full information from the agent and the tenants.

From the investigation which he made, the dishonesty of the agent was shown beyond question ; the delight of the tenants was unbounded when they knew that he had been dismissed on the spot, as were also the bailiffs and underlings who were employed by him in grinding down the tenants, and had shared the plunder with him.

Having thus driven out those who had enriched themselves at the expense of the spendthrift lord and his unfortunate tenants, Atalyn lost no time in setting to work to restore his patrimony to what it had been before it fell into the hands of James de Montville in 1769. Fortunately, the treasures of Atlas furnished him with unlimited resources for the restoration of the old castle and its surroundings, and when Sir George returned to England at the end of a few weeks, an army of workmen was already employed in removing all traces of the disastrous reign of Atalyn's unworthy predecessors.

CHAPTER XVII.

“DOWN TO THE EVENTIDE.”

ON the 15th of September, the anniversary of the day on which the “Essequibo” had sailed on her memorable voyage, there was a quiet wedding in the old church at Eumaling, and Katherine Denesmore became Countess of Altenburgh. Among the villagers there was rejoicing such as had been unknown for many a long year, and no one bestowed a heartier blessing on the bride than did good old Doctor Burton.

But if there were rejoicings at Eumaling, even when it meant that the one who had been the friend of the poor and unfortunate was leaving them for another home, what shall be said of the joy which prevailed at Altenburgh, when they welcomed the young Earl and his wife, whose coming had ended the long years of oppression and persecution, and had restored to them

the good old days when, as the saying went, "the real lord lived in the old castle."

To Katherine the castle was home from the moment when, in the entrance to it, she looked on the well-remembered lines of the great doorway of the old palace on the Mountain of Atlantis.

Whether or not it was a strange inheritance which had come down to them from the far away time when Atlas and Eumaleus played as children around the borders of the lake, or gathered flowers around the palace, or wandered through its chambers or corridors, they had felt on the Mountain of Refuge that strange, restful satisfaction which the exile feels when perhaps, after years of toil and hardship and loneliness, among strangers, he at last finds himself again in the home of his childhood; or, like the Swiss mountaineer, finding again the life which was fading away, when he sees once more his native village.

Now they found, not only in the doorway, but in the surroundings and in the old castle itself, changed, it was true, to accommodate itself to the different circum-

stances, but still almost a reproduction of the home on the mountain, and the same realization that it was the home of their fathers.

Here they could rest, with all their surroundings reminding them of the magnificent past, and the grand old name which was their inheritance, which still spoke of Atlas the King, and even of the towering heights of the Mountain of Refuge.

As they passed through the great doorway into the well-remembered halls, their thoughts turned to their great ancestor, whose words had guided them, and to whose thoughtful care they owed the rest and happiness which had come to them. They went forward through halls and chambers, until they had gone through the labyrinthian passage, and stood in what seemed the altar chamber of the old palace.

Before them was the counterpart of the altar, and on the wall the same blazing sun, the symbol of Adonai, the Mighty One, to whom Atlas the King had given the service of his whole life. And when Atalyn pressed the centre of the glowing symbol,

the door opened, and revealed to them the same treasure chamber beyond it. It was empty, but where could be found a more fitting resting place for that brave old heart which had defied the ages, and kept his watch until his children returned to him.

A few days later, Sir George and Lady Denesmore, with Adele and her mother, arrived at Altenburgh, and with them they brought Atlas the King. Tenderly they bore him through the stately halls and into the treasure chamber, which was to be the place of his rest ; for more than ever the ages seemed to have faded out, and he to have come into their own times and their own lives ; and then they left him, as he might have seemed when, in the glory of his strength, he sat on the throne of Atlantis.

But when they returned they found the long years of his watching were indeed over, for where they had left the majestic form of the King, they found only a little heap of dust.

In the centre of the treasure chamber they raised a stately tomb, on which was

inscribed the words : "Atlas, King of Atlantis," and in it they placed an urn, in which was gathered all that was mortal of their great ancestor, now at least at rest.

But, before they had completed this tribute of respect to their kinsman, they had again the truth of his words brought home to them. In the altar Atalyn found a recess, like that which contained the Last Will of Atlas ; in it was a casket of bronze, in which they found a stained and weather-beaten parchment, on which, in cramped and crabbed writing, were the words : "He who bears the name of "James de Montville is a cotter's son. "The real James de Montville lived but "one hour, and I put the cotter's child in "his place. May God forgive me the "wrong I have done. August 14th, "1741.—MARY DONALDSON."

It was true that a usurper had taken their place, and it was also true that those who had brought dishonor on the name of Atlas were not of that name, but strangers to it. They had received the reward of their evil-doing, and now there

was peace and prosperity in Altenburgh, such as had not been seen even in the best of the old days, before the stranger had usurped the place which belonged to the house of Atlas.

The years passed, and there came to Atalyn and Katherine the joys and the sorrows which are the common lot of humanity; but there came to them, too, the blessings of the needy and the sorrowful, and in their lives there was only that which brought to them, in all fullness, the benediction which it was promised by their great ancestor would be their reward for well-doing.

As the years passed, too, the old halls of Altenburgh and Eumaling echoed to the joyous laughter of children's voices, for to Sir George and Lady Denesmore the presence of their grandchildren was as the renewing of their youth; and when they came to Eumaling—it was but a step across the valley to Aldenmere House—to find again the music of the little voices, and Lord and Lady Kenleigh, whom the children called "Uncle Joe" and "Aunt Adele."

And as Atalyn and Archibald and George and Katherine and Adele grew up from babyhood, their toddling steps were followed and guided with watch-dog faithfulness by old Dinah and Jim, to whom they were as the apple of the eye.

Still the years passed ; the little ones grew up, a joy and a comfort to their parents, and worthy of the blessing of Atlas the King. Again there came a time when Archibald de Montville was the Seigneur of Duvarnay, and George was the possessor of Eumaling Castle. And so through the long eventide of life, surrounded by their children and children's children, Lord and Lady Altenburgh went calmly forward. But, as the shadows lengthened, and in the midst of the happiness and peace of their lives, which the years had only drawn more closely together, there came sometimes to them a longing for their childhood's home, but they knew that longing must remain unsatisfied, for that home had gone down into the depths of the ocean with "A Bit of Atlantis."

THE END.

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Buchan, John Stuart
A bit of Atlantis

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